



Book	Policy Manual
Section	700 Property
Title	Use of Unmanned Aircraft (UA) - Drones
Number	719
Status	
Last Reviewed	March 5, 2018

### **Purpose**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes that schools are "keenly interested in having students operate [drones] under section 336 ... in connection with their academic coursework...Students are also interested in operating [drones] for other educational purposes such as in connection with television, film, or photography courses." FAA May 4, 2016 Memo, at 4. The purpose of this policy is to assist the Wilson School District in promoting safety, reducing injury, and complying with federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies. In addition, this policy defines the guidelines for the acceptable use of Unmanned Aircraft on Wilson School District owned or controlled property or elsewhere for District-sanctioned activities.

### **Definitions**

**Drone** - an unmanned aircraft ("UA"); also referred to as unmanned aircraft system ("UAS"); and Model Aircraft

**Model Aircraft** - an unmanned aircraft that is "(1) capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere; (2) flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft; (3) flown for hobby or recreational purposes" as set forth in Section 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (FMRA), Pub. L. 112-95, SOS 336

**Unmanned Aircraft (UA)** An aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft. (Section 331 of FMRA).

**Visual Line-of-Sight (VLOS)** - The direct line between the person manipulating the controls of the UA and the UA itself.

**Federal Aviation Administration** - The division of the Department of Transportation that inspects and rates civilian aircraft and pilots, enforces the rules of air safety, and installs and maintains air-navigation control facilities.

**School property** - all buildings and grounds, instructional or otherwise, indoors and outdoors. Examples include but are not limited to: classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, pools, athletic fields, courts, mats, gym floor, spectator areas, parking lots, buses, bus stops, and travel to and from bus stops.

**Hobby or recreational use of drones** - operation of a drone as a model aircraft (under Section 336 of FMRA) removes the requirement for the drone to be registered with the FAA, and its operators are not subject to pilot requirements of Part 107.

### **Authority**

The laws of the State of Pennsylvania provide that Boards of Education may authorize school property to be used for any lawful or proper purpose. Such use of property shall not interfere with the educational purpose and operation of the public schools. Model Aircraft owned and controlled by the Wilson School District may be operated for hobby or

recreational use on District property provided they are being used to directly enhance the curriculum of a given course of study or approved school activity. The District reserves the right to monitor, track, and require flight logs for any Model Aircraft use on District-owned property.

Model Aircraft shall not create an undue hazard to District-owned or controlled property, the community, or the public at any time. It is prohibited to operate Model Aircraft in a way which negatively affects the environment, individuals, or facilities. The District shall not be responsible for consequences incurred by individuals who fail to comply with FAA and District regulations and protocols.

#### Guidelines

All FAA Regulations and Guidelines are to be adhered to by District personnel when operating a Model Aircraft. Use of drones on school property is strictly prohibited except as provided immediately hereafter:

1. District-approved, full time school employees and students may be authorized to use drones on school property for educational purposes only with permission of the instructor or building principal. Employees may not take home school District-owned drones without written permission of supervisor.

2. Community groups or other outside organizations must obtain proper authorization and register their drone via the District Facilities Coordinator in writing prior to drone use. Authorization will be requested via the approved Wilson SD Request for Drone Use. The written authorization must state, in writing, the date and time for of the planned flight, as well as the anticipated flight duration (in minutes and/or hours). The written authorization shall also limit the flight location. The written authorization must also state whether photos and/or video will be permitted during that specific use. Under no circumstance will written authority permit authorized drone operators to fly drones on or over non-school property.

3. The authorized drone operator will comply with all FAA and PIAA requirements and may be required to provide proof of compliance to the District Facilities Coordinator prior to receiving written authorization.

4. The Authorization shall contain an acknowledgment that the employee and/or student understands the terms and conditions of the District's permission to fly drones on or over school District property and agrees to comply with all District policies.

5. The District retains the sole and absolute discretion to extend permission to operate drones on or over school property to District-approved employee and/or student applicants.

6. All digital media produced while using the drone will directly enhance, demonstrate, or relate to concepts and curriculum taught in specific courses of study. The digital media produced will not be used for profit, and all media produced using District-owned drones are the property of the Wilson School District.

7. Any drone flight that results in personal injury or property damage will be reported within 24 hours to District administration.

8. School personnel will report any unauthorized drone activity on school District property to Building Principal or his/her designee. Unauthorized individuals on school property and/or operating a drone about school property are in violation of this policy and shall be treated as trespassers. Such individuals may be dealt with accordingly, including but not limited to, being removed from school property, receiving a written directive to remain off school property, and being reported to appropriate law enforcement.

9. The District reserves the right to rescind any facilities use authorization granted under District Policy Nos. 707 ("Use of School Facilities") and/or 709 ("Building Security") issued to an individual or group who violates any provision of this policy.

#### **Restrictions on Authorized Use of Drones**

1. The drone shall not exceed fifty-five (55) pounds in weight;
2. The drone must remain within the visual-line-of-sight ("VLOS") of the remote pilot operating the drone;

3. The drone must be operated within designated indoor and outdoor "Fly Zones" on District property;
4. The drone shall not exceed a maximum altitude of two hundred (200) feet above the ground;
5. The drone shall be operated in daylight hours only with minimum weather visibility of three (3) miles during operation;
6. The drone shall not exceed maximum ground speed of one hundred (100) miles per hour;
7. The drone shall not be flown directly over any inter-scholastic practice, game, match or other contest;
8. The drone shall not carry any hazardous materials;
9. The drone shall not be operated in a careless or reckless manner;
10. The drone shall not interfere with the operation of any aircraft or motor vehicle; and
11. The drone shall not be operated over non-District property without expressed written permission from both the District and property owner.

### **Athletic Events**

The Wilson School District is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. ("PIAA") and will enforce the policies of the PIAA regarding drone use. The PIAA's 2016-2017 Policies and Procedures Handbook defines a drone as any unmanned aerial device. The PIAA does not permit drones above the competition surface or spectator areas during interscholastic contests, practices, and/or scrimmages and drones may not be used to scout opposing team practices. The PIAA's policies and procedures may be updated in the future and any updates will also be enforced by the District.

Last Modified by Mrs Regina Urso on February 23, 2018