

Drones and Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association and the District's insurance pool have many restrictions and requirements that must be complied with before anyone is able to legally operate an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS). The FAA, allows educators to operate an unmanned aircraft in accordance with section 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (FMRA) at educational institutions if the person meets certain requirements. Requirements for the operation of UAS by a school employee include:

1. Staff members who wish to use drones/UAS in their curricular coursework and activities must provide specific educational objectives and obtain prior written approval from the Superintendent or designee. **F-1 2350**
2. Students shall not operate drones without the presence of a supervising staff member.
3. Fly below 400 feet and remain clear of surrounding obstacles.
4. Always keep the aircraft within the visual line of sight.
5. Remain clear of manned aircraft and do not interfere with manned aircraft operations.
6. Not fly within five miles of an airport without prior notification and acknowledgement from airport authorities. Written documentation for notification must be logged and kept on file by the notifying staff member.
7. Staff and students shall not operate a UAS over crowds, bleachers, sporting events, stadiums, or vehicles.
8. Ensure the aircraft is limited to not more than 30 pounds.
9. Staff and students shall not operate UAS before sunrise or after sunset or in adverse weather conditions.
10. If the UAS is flown/blown onto a building roof, off-campus location, or another restricted area, the staff member must report it immediately to the school administration and appropriate support staff, i.e., custodial staff, or technical services. Students shall not be used to retrieve the drone under any such circumstances. Any damage to private or public property is to be reported to the building administration and complete the online "Notice of Incident-Property Damage" form.
11. District funds may not be used to purchase a UAS without permission of the superintendent or designee.
12. Staff and students shall not operate UAS broadcasting or recording images of people or property where the reasonable expectation of privacy exists or over areas that are normally deemed private by social norms, such as restrooms, locker rooms, or residential areas.
13. Use of a UAS without permission or supervision may result in disciplinary action.
14. Use of a UAS without following district guidelines, as well as federal and state laws and regulations, may result in disciplinary action.
15. Use of a UAS is limited to instructional and educational purposes only and it cannot be for commercial purposes.