

Drones and Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The first priority of the Kennewick School District Board of Directors is the safety of all students and staff. The Board of Directors is also committed to providing all students and staff with technology-based learning opportunities. The use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones is a privilege which comes with responsibilities that must be adhered to.

Definition

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) or “drone” is “the unmanned aircraft (UA) and all the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications, and navigation equipment, etc., necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft. The UA is the flying portion of the system, flown by a pilot via a ground control system, or autonomously through use of an onboard computer, communication links, and any additional equipment that is necessary for the UA to operate safely.”

Authorized Use

Authorized use of drones can be approved in curricular coursework and activities to meet the unique need of students, which can be learning how to design, construct and operate small unmanned aircraft as a component of a variety of science, technology and aviation-related educational curricula, relating to flight, aerodynamics, and airplane design and construction or other coursework such as television, film production, photography or the arts. Any staff member who wishes to use drones and/or (UAS) in their curricular program must provide specific educational objectives and obtain prior written approval from the Superintendent or designee.

Drones and Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and any other such vehicles (drones), which are not operated for the purposes of district programs or activities may not be operated on or above district property during school hours, school activities, or any other school function, or any organized function of a third party user group without the prior written permission of the Superintendent or designee. Any authorized use of drones must comply with all state and federal regulations governing the operation of drones, including FAA regulations.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish Rules and Regulations governing the use of drones and (UAS) in any of the educational offerings, programs, or activities in the Kennewick School District.

Legal Reference:

Federal Aviation Administration: www.faa.gov

[Code of Federal Regulation PART 107](#) – Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

[FAA Memorandum on Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems May 4, 2016](#)

Adopted: November 7, 2018