

Desert Sands USD | BP 3515.7 Business and Noninstructional Operations

Unmanned Aircraft Systems/Drones

The Governing Board recognizes its responsibility to monitor the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones at district sites and at district sponsored events.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), an Unmanned Aircraft System ("UAS") or "drone" is "the unmanned aircraft (UA) and all of 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 on-board computer, communication links, and any additional equipment that is necessary for the UA to operate safely."

The FAA has many restrictions and requirements that must be met before anyone is able to legally operate a UAS. Before using a UAS on district property or district sponsored events, the person wishing to operate the UAS must obtain written approval from the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent shall carefully consider any conditions or restrictions with the district's vision, philosophy, and operations. If the proposed use does not conflict with the district's vision, philosophy, and operations, the Superintendent must be assured that all federal and state laws and regulations will be followed.

Individuals who are given access to a drone or model aircraft are required to know and abide by district policy and procedures, as well as city, state and federal guidelines and regulations.

Individuals must abide by the FAA's guidelines for model aircraft operations, which states that operators must:

1. Fly below 400 feet and remain clear of surrounding obstacles.
2. Keep the aircraft within the visual line of sight at all times.
3. Remain clear of aircraft and do not interfere with manned aircraft operations.
4. Not fly within five miles of an airport.
5. Not fly near people or stadiums.
6. Ensure the aircraft is limited to not more than 55 pounds.

In addition, the following district guidelines must be followed:

1. District funds may not be used to purchase a UAS without permission of the Superintendent or designee.
2. A UAS can only be used as described when provided approval for use by the Superintendent or designee.
3. The operator must never use a UAS without supervision, permission, or in poor weather conditions.
4. Use of a UAS without permission or supervision may result in disciplinary action.
5. Use of a UAS without following district guidelines, as well as federal and state laws and regulations, may result in disciplinary action.
6. A UAS cannot be used for commercial purposes.
7. Use of a UAS is limited to instructional and educational purposes only.

8. Any UAS with camera, video, or voice recording capability shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person(s).

Legal Reference:

Federal Aviation Administration: www.faa.gov

Policy DESERT SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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