

**POLICY TITLE: UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (DRONES)**

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Canyon-Owyhee School Service Agency (COSSA) to maintain a safe learning environment. The Agency has determined that unapproved use of drones poses a safety hazard. The use or possession of unmanned aircraft or aerial systems (UAS), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person or entity at any Agency-sponsored event; game; match; tournament; or anywhere in, on, or directly above or upon property or premises owned, maintained or used by the Agency for any purpose, unless otherwise preempted by applicable State or federal law. The Agency reserves the right to remove or refuse admission to any individual who violates this policy. The Agency further reserves the right to exclude any individual who violates this policy from future Agency events. Violators may also be reported to appropriate authorities, including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Students or employees violating this policy shall be subject to formal disciplinary action pursuant to Agency policies.

**Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)**

An unmanned aircraft, or drone (hereinafter “drone”), is an aircraft that is:

1. Capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere;
2. Flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft; and
3. Flown for hobby or recreational purposes.

Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) or Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) from, on, or above COSSA Regional Technology and Education Center (CRTEC), or other COSSA owned property, is prohibited without prior, written approval from the Superintendent or his/her designee.

**Procedure**

Any employee or representative of COSSA operating an Unmanned Aircraft System shall do so in accordance with COSSA policy, this procedure, and all applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.

An “Unmanned Aircraft System” (UAS) means an unmanned flying machine, commonly known as a drone, and its associated elements, including communication links and the components that control the machine.

COSSA recognizes the academic value of student operation of a UAS as one component of curricula pertaining to principles of flight, aerodynamics, airplane design and construction, and pre-engineering design; which can also serve as an academic

tool in other areas such as television, film production, or the arts in general. Therefore, in compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Section 336, students may operate a UAS as part of a course requirement, as long as that student does not receive compensation directly or incidentally from such operation.

CRTEC staff teaching a class that allows use of a UAS may assist a student in their operation of the UAS, provided the assistance is needed as part of the curriculum and assistance is to a student enrolled in the course. The staff member's participation must be limited to the student's operation of the UAS.

CRTEC employees shall work with administrators to ensure that proper insurance, registration and authorization are in place prior to adoption of curriculum that allows operation of a UAS as part of the curriculum.

A student in violation of CRTEC policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, in accordance with Board policy.

A faculty/staff member in violation of CRTEC policy may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Board policy.

All data gathered by COSSA as part of a UAS operation will belong to COSSA. The data gathering by COSSA will follow appropriate state and federal laws. Retention of such data will follow state and federal laws.

### **Third Party Use**

Third party use of a UAS on COSSA property or at COSSA-sponsored events for any purpose is prohibited, unless granted permission from the Superintendent or designee.

If permission is granted by COSSA, the third party operating a UAS will comply with all FAA regulations and shall provide the following to COSSA:

1. Appropriate registration and authorization issued by the FAA when required; and
2. A signed agreement holding COSSA harmless from any claims of harm to individuals or damage to property.

### **Appropriate Use**

**School Related:** Teachers/staff, students (over 16 years old) may, with pre-approval from the Agency's Administration, and if part of a school program or activity, operate a drone on school property solely for the limited purpose of the administrative pre-approval.

**Non-School Related:** Visitors and unsupervised students are prohibited from operating drones on Agency property.

The following guidelines must be adhered to by anyone flying a drone on Agency property:

1. Absent specific written permission from the Agency's Administration, all drones operating on Agency property must weigh no more than 55 lbs. If a drone weighs between .55 and 55 pounds, the individual must register the device online. The school shall request proof of the drone owner/operator with regard to the device's registration.
2. Operators must not operate a drone within five miles of any airport without prior notification and confirmation from airport authorities.
3. Operators must abide by any other airspace restrictions.
4. Operators must not operate a drone above an altitude of 400 feet above ground level and must remain clear of surrounding obstacles.
5. Operators must maintain safe control and line of sight with the drone during all stages of operation. Drones may only be flown during daylight and in weather that allows 3 miles of visibility from the place the drone is being operated.
6. Operators must maintain a safe operating distance from crowds and may not fly over stadiums, sports events, emergency response efforts, or any people who are not directly involved in the operation of the drone.
7. Operators must ensure drone operations do not interfere with manned aircraft operations.
8. Data collected by a drone can only be used for educational purposes and may not be sold for profit.
9. If there is a plan to fly drones over property that is not owned by the Agency, written permission from the owner of the property must be provided to the Superintendent or his or her designee. Those operating drones on property not owned by the Agency must adhere to all requirements of this policy.
10. Operators assume all risk of damage to property and bodily injuries that may occur due to unsafe operation of any drones.

The Superintendent or designee may require those using the drone to:

1. Supply proof of insurance meeting liability limits established by the Agency;

2. Sign an agreement holding the Agency harmless from any claims of harm to individuals or damage to property; and
3. Meet additional requirements as determined appropriate by the Agency.

### **Inappropriate Use**

Inappropriate use of drones includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Violating any State or Federal laws or rules or any Agency policy;
2. Taking pictures of property or persons without consent;
3. Violating safe operating protocols as defined in drone user manual and as directed by the supervising staff member;
4. Deliberately annoying another person, interfering with another's work, insulting or attacking others, or harassing others; and
5. Take-offs or landings on Agency property contrary to this policy or pre-approval of the Agency's administration.

### **Violations**

Agency staff shall monitor for inappropriate use of Agency drone technology as defined by this policy. Violators may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion for students and termination for employees. Violators may also be subject to civil penalties pursuant to Idaho Code § 21-213(3).3

### **LEGAL REFERENCE:**

Memorandum: Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), Federal Aviation Administration  
The FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Section 336. Special Rule for Model Aircraft  
I.C. § 21-213 Restrictions on Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems  
Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Federal Aviation Administration,  
[https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\\_started/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/)  
Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, P.L. 112-95 § 336 (2012).  
Federal Aviation Administration, Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Memorandum, May 4, 2016.  
Family Educational Rights Privacy Act

### **POLICY HISTORY:**

**Adopted: 2/21/2017**  
**Originally issued as Policy 117. Revised and reissued as Policy 8800 on January 19, 2022.**