

General Policy

All drone operations must comply with the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) regulations, including the mandate that drones may not be flown over people. Any Fresno Unified staff member or student must pass the FAA Recreational Unmanned Aircraft System Safety Test (TRUST) to fly a drone on a school campus or at a school-sponsored event. To fly a drone outdoors, regardless of the weight of the drone, the responsible adult (pilot in command) must also possess a Remote Pilot Certification (Part 107 certification).

Only drones on the approved district purchasing list are authorized for use with school programs and organizations (see chart below).

By FAA regulation, drones that weigh 250 grams or more must be registered with the FAA and may only be operated by an individual in possession of a Part 107 certificate.

Staff Operation of Drones

District employees, including teachers, coaches, management, and classified staff, must take and pass an FAA TRUST examination prior to operating a drone on a school campus or school-sponsored event. This should be taken each school year as long as a staff member continues to operate a drone on a campus or for a school-sponsored activity.

In order to operate a drone weighing more than 249 grams and/or to operate a drone outdoors on a school campus or school-sponsored event, an Fresno Unified staff member must possess a Part 107 certification and follow all FAA and district regulations related to drone use.

Student Operation of Drones

Students must take and pass the FAA TRUST examination prior to operating a drone on a school campus or school-sponsored activity. It is also recommended that students spend time in a drone simulator app prior to flying a drone.

Students are only allowed to operate a drone, indoors or outdoors, on a school campus or school-sponsored event while under the direct supervision of a responsible staff member with the appropriate qualifications as determined by both the FAA and Fresno Unified School District.

Visitors/Outside Agency Operation of Drones on School Sites

Any individual or agency that is not a district employee may request to operate drones on a school site by contacting the Fresno Unified Risk Management Department for approval. Individuals/agencies must abide by all district policies and FAA regulations for drone operation.

Approved List of Staff Members with FAA Trust Exam and/or Part 107 Certificate

Any staff member operating a drone on a school campus or at a school-sponsored activity must notify Human Resources (HR) and submit their documentation to HR prior to operating any drone on a school campus or school-sponsored event.

Approved Device List

The following table lists the devices that are available for purchase and for use on a school site and/or school sponsored activity (please note the usage parameters and appropriate registration and operator requirements):

| Drone Models | Weight | Indoor/ Outdoor Use | Register with FAA | Requires Part 107 | Applications |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Tello | Under 249 grams | Indoor | No | No | Introduction to Drone Flight/Controls |
| DJI Mini 3 | Under 249 grams | Both | No | Yes, if used outdoors | Basic Imaging/Video |
| DJI Mavic Classic | Over 249 grams | Outdoor | Yes | Yes | Advanced Outdoor Applications: multispectral Mapping and Survey and Thermal |
| DJI Mavic Enterprise | Over 249 grams | Outdoor | Yes | Yes | Advanced Outdoor Applications: multispectral Mapping and Survey and Thermal |
| DJI Mavic Cine | Over 249 grams | Outdoor | Yes | Yes | Advanced Outdoor Cinematography |
| DJI Agra | Over 249 grams | Outdoor | Yes | Yes | Agriculture – Mapping/Survey |

Resources

- [FAA](#)
- [FAA UAS Safety Test \(TRUST\) Online Exam](#)