

POSSESSION OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

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Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the use of personal electronic devices by students in school. This policy is intended to ensure that personal electronic devices on school property do not interfere with the learning, safety, and well-being of students and staff.

For the purposes of this policy, a personal electronic device means any device used to access the internet, wi-fi, cellular telephone signals, or to capture images or video. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, tablets, and gaming devices. Personal Electronic Device accessories include any wired or wireless accessory or wearable technology that connects to a device and any other accessory used with a personal electronic device.

Model Policy

I. Definitions:

A. “Personal electronic device,” hereinafter referred to as “device,” means any device utilized to access the internet, wi-fi, cellular telephone signals, or to capture images or video. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, tablets, and gaming devices.

B. “Personal Electronic Device accessories,” hereinafter referred to as “device accessories,” include any wired or wireless accessory or wearable technology that connects to a device and any other accessory commonly used in conjunction with a personal electronic device.

C. “School day” is defined as the period of time that a student is present on the school campus from their arrival (i.e., tardy bell) until afternoon dismissal at the end of the instructional day. This policy may also apply to school buses, field trips, and athletic events. The applicability of this regulation to these activities will be determined by the school district.

D. “Access” is defined as viewing, holding, wearing, or otherwise using a device for the purpose of communication, internet access, gaming, recording, or any other function commonly associated with devices. During the school day, devices should be powered off and stored as directed by the school district. Exceptions granted for medical necessity, authorized for classroom use, or other authorized reasons should be in writing and are not considered violations of this definition.

E. “Authorized for Classroom Use” is defined as the use of a personal electronic device that is explicitly approved by the District Superintendent or his/her designee in writing. The approval must include alignment with a standards-aligned educational objective that cannot be reasonably achieved using district-owned devices. Students must be provided with clear instructions on the appropriate use of devices and ensure that their use aligns with the approved educational objectives. The District Superintendent or his/her designee may revoke approval at any time if it is determined that their use does not meet the intended educational objectives or is causing disruptions.

II. Policy Implementation and Enforcement

A. During the school day, students are prohibited from accessing their personal electronic devices, unless authorized for classroom use. Students may not wear or access device accessories during the school day. Students must store their devices and device accessories in lockers, backpacks, or otherwise as directed by the school district during the school day. BPA may forbid student possession of devices and device accessories on school property.

B. If explicitly required by a student's IEP, Medical Plan, or 504 plan, the student shall be allowed to access their personal electronic device for medically or educationally necessary purposes described and required for administration of the IEP, Medical Plan or 504 plan.

C. A student who is a member of a volunteer firefighting organization or emergency organization may be authorized to carry a device with written permission from the school principal or his/her designee.

D. If a student violates the preceding rules during the school day, the student will be subject to progressive consequences in the student code of conduct and disciplinary enforcement, or on a school sponsored bus.

Any student who uses one of these devices for any unethical and/or illegal purpose will have the device confiscated and be subject to referral to law enforcement.

Students will assume all responsibility and risks relating to their possession and use of their personal electronic devices, including any and all data and content at all times. School employees will not be responsible to store, support, safeguard or troubleshoot any student personal electronic devices. Neither the school, nor its trustees, administrators, or employees shall not be responsible, or liable for, the theft, loss, data loss, damage, destruction, misuse or vandalism of any student personal electronic device brought onto district or school property.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions as defined by the student code of conduct in the BPA Student Handbook. Subsequent, multiple violations and/or illegal unethical use of a personal electronic device may result in forfeiture of the device, multiday suspension, alternative school placement, expulsion and/or prosecution.

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code of laws, 1976, as amended:
 - 1. Section 59-63-280 - Possession of paging devices by public school students; mobile telephones included; adoption of policies.