



To: School Board Members  
From: Matt Yoshioka, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Date: August 29, 2025  
RE: Updating Board Policy JFCEB (Personal Electronic Devices)

### **Executive Order Requiring Policy Change**

The proposal to revise Policy JFCEB “Personal Electronic Devices and Personal Communication” is before the board in accordance with Oregon Governor’s Executive Order 25-09, passed on July 2, 2025. The key requirements of this order are that all school districts in Oregon must:

- Adopt a policy that prohibits students from using personal electronic devices (PEDs) during the instructional day.
- Clarify how PEDs will be stored during the school day.
- Provide for exemptions to this policy under the following conditions:
  - The student’s medical provider’s order for the care and treatment of a medical condition.
  - The student’s IEP or 504 plan requires use of the PED
- Provide direction to school personnel regarding actions that may be taken when a student violates the policy.
- Violation of this policy alone may not result in discipline that excludes the student from instructional time, such as a school suspension. However, if the violation of this policy is concurrent with another policy violation, any appropriate school discipline may apply to the other policy violation.

*Key reasons cited by the Governor for implementation of this order include:*

- Research showing the negative effects on young people’s mental health, self-esteem, loneliness, anxiety, depression, and suicide risk through electronic device and social media usage.
- The need to support students being engaged in learning with fewer distractions in Oregon schools.
- The belief that passing this as a uniform executive order is supportive of school staff, educators, and administrators across the state.
- The commitment to improving academic outcomes for students throughout the state.



## **District Guidance Prior to Order**

The Pendleton School District's expectations regarding personal electronic devices prior to executive order (past few years):

- Elementary Schools:
  - No Cell Phones: Students were not permitted to have cell phones out at school at any time.
- Sunridge Middle School:
  - Off and Away All Day: Students could have their cell phones on the way to or from school, but were not permitted to have them out during any part of the instructional day. Phones must remain in backpacks or lockers.
- Pendleton High School:
  - Off and placed in a storage caddy as students enter classrooms. Use not allowed during instruction time. Allowed to use during passing time, in the cafeteria, and as directed by teachers for specific activities.
- Hawthorne Alternative High School:
  - Placed in a storage caddy as students enter the building. Possession of PED not allowed at any time in classes. Allowed use during lunch time, before and after classes.

## **Administrator Input on Changes**

During administrator in-service time, input was gathered in the development of the recommended policy, as well as establishing universal steps for when a student is not following the personal electronic device policy. All administrators agree with the policy and the steps to be taken when the policy is not being followed.

## **Communication and Implementation Plan**

- Student/Parent Handbooks updated with new expectations and steps to be taken when expectations are not followed.
- Letter to all PSD families from the superintendent about the new policy and reasons for the change.
- Reviewed and discussed with all PSD staff at the building level during in-service week.
- Reviewed and explained to all students on the first day of school in advisory or homeroom classes.