

Semester 2 – 2026 Draft Cell Phone Proposal for Handbook Change

1. Move to Away for the Day Option Presented in 2024 from MESP and MASSP Cell Phone Toolkit
2. Added in Information on Wearable Tech, AI, and PSEO
3. Updated consequences to be local control as well as to include activities / trips / etc.

CELL PHONE USE

The school board directs the superintendent and school district administration to establish rules and procedures regarding student possession and use of cell phones in schools. These rules and procedures should seek to minimize the impact of cell phones on student behavior, mental health, and academic attainment. These rules and procedures may be designed for specific school buildings, grade levels, or similar criteria.

General Guidelines

- Cell Phone Use: Students may NOT use cell phones during the academic day - first bell to last bell, including lunch. We acknowledge that cell phones may be checked during passing times while at their lockers, but no phone calls should be made and cell phone usage will not constitute a reason for being late to class and all appropriate uses still apply.
- Device Storage: It is strongly suggested that all electronic devices be kept off and in a locker during school hours.
- Earbuds/headphones may be allowed at designated times for instructional purposes on school approved devices. If devices are allowed, they need to be stored in classroom caddies until the time in which they are needed for class.
- Wearable Technologies: Wearable technologies such as but not limited to glasses, smart watches, rings, etc. may be worn but may not be used to call, message, record, and/or access the internet or they will constitute a cell phone violation as well.
- Recording and Posting: Students may not use a device to record, transmit, or post photos or videos of a person/people (including but not limited to staff and students) on school grounds or the bus without express permission of an administrator in addition to the individual or individuals that are the subjects of the recording.
- Phone Calls: Students are not to use their phones to call or text individuals during the school day. A telephone located in the office is available for student use. Students will not be called to the office to talk to a parent during the school day except for emergencies. Parents are encouraged to call and leave messages for students, and the office will distribute in a timely manner.
- We acknowledge that cell phones may be used during passing times for students to check while at their lockers.
- PSEO Students needing their phone for two-factor authentication are not allowed to have phones in the library. Students will need to login into their university accounts during passing time or get a pass to their locker. Students who have issues with this may need to have a meeting with parents and administration.

Cellphone Violations and Consequences

- Unauthorized Use: If any electronic device, including cell phones, is seen or heard during school hours it may be confiscated by any staff member, or the office will be called and the student will be sent to their locker to put the device away.
 - First Infraction: The student will take their device back to their locker and the student will receive a lunch detention.
 - Second Infraction: The student will take their device back to their locker and the student will receive one hour of detention.
 - Third Infraction: The student will take their device back to their locker and the student will receive two hours of detention.
 - Fourth Infraction: The student will take their device back to their locker, receive two hours of detention and a parent meeting to create a cell phone plan set.
 - Please note that the severity of cellphone violation may result in skipping steps or more severe consequences. The basic warnings are for having a cellphone in possession during a time when cellphones are not allowed.

Specific Restrictions

- Locker Rooms and Bathrooms: Devices with photo-taking capabilities are NOT allowed in locker rooms or bathrooms at any time. Confiscation and search of such devices is standard procedure if found in these areas.
- Lockdowns and Fire Drills: Phone usage during lockdown and fire drills is prohibited.
- Unauthorized Recording: Students who take pictures or videos of others without permission in any school setting, including the bus, will face disciplinary actions. Recording or taking photos of classmates with the intent to bully or harass is not permitted. Students in violation are subject to the district's Bullying and Harassment Policies.
- Using social media, apps, or any other function of a cell phone/device to spread rumors, bully, make fun of, exclude, or create a disruption in school or outside of school is not permitted.
- Sharing or asking classmates for inappropriate content is not permitted.
- Creating AI images, videos or content using staff, students or other persons photographs or voice is not permitted, and administration will refer to the harassment or bullying policy based upon the evidence from investigation and may include a referral to law enforcement.

School Responsibility / Investigations / Inspections

- Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Devices: The School is not responsible for, nor is it required to investigate, any lost, stolen, or damaged electronic devices brought onto school grounds or the bus. All hall lockers can be locked and should be locked, and students can bring locks for gym lockers.
- Device Disabling: Disabling a cell phone or computer to thwart an investigation of a disciplinary matter will result in disciplinary action.
- Device Inspection: The school reserves the right to inspect a student's electronic device, through proper legal channels, if there is reason to believe the student has violated school policies or engaged in misconduct while using the device.
- Students with an IEP, LIEP, health or 504 plan that have a need for assistive technology may utilize devices per their IEP, LIEP, health or 504, but will be considered in violation if the devices is used beyond the accommodation or parameters listed.

Activities and Offsite Events

- Cell phone guidelines for off-campus school activities (i.e. extracurricular activities, outdoor and service trips, school field trips) will be individualized depending on the specific trip and activities. These expectations will be addressed at pre-trip meetings and/or on trip specific permission slips.
- Students found in violation of general school tech or cell phone policies may face MSHSL code of conduct violations. Depending on the nature and severity of the violation, warnings may be skipped and administration may enforce a MSHSL suspension immediately.