

Milton-Freewater School District 7

Code: JFCEB
Adopted: 6/27/06
Revised/Readopted: 8/10/10; 1/13/15; 3/13/17

Personal Electronic Devices ~~and Social Media~~—Students**

~~Student possession or use of personal electronic devices and social media on district property, in district facilities during the school day and while the student is in attendance at district-sponsored activities may be permitted subject to the limitations set forth in this policy and consistent with any additional school rules as may be established by the principal and approved by the superintendent.~~

~~A “personal electronic device” is a device that is capable of electronically communicating, sending, receiving, storing, recording, reproducing and/or displaying information and data.~~

~~“Independent communication” means communication that does not require assistance or interpretation by an individual who is not part of the communication but that may require the use or assistance of an electronic device.~~

~~Personal electronic devices shall be turned off during instructional or class time or at any other time where such use of the device would cause a disruption of school activities. Devices which have the capability to take photographs or record video or audio shall not be used for such purposes while on district property or while a student is engaged in district-sponsored activities, unless as expressly authorized in advance by the principal or designee. Computers, tablets, iPads or similar devices brought to school will be restricted to academic activities and independent communications.~~

~~If the district implements a curriculum that uses technology, students may be allowed to use their own personal electronic devices to access the curriculum. Students who are allowed to use their own devices to access the curriculum will be granted access to any application or electronic materials when they are available to students who do not use their own devices, or provided free of charge to students who do not use their own devices, for curriculum.~~

~~A process for responding to a student’s request to use a personal electronic device, including an appeal process if the request is denied, will be provided.~~

~~Students may not access social media websites while using district equipment on district property or at district-sponsored activities unless the access is approved by a district representative. The district will not be liable for information or comments posted by students on social media websites.~~

~~Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior principal or designee approval or when use is provided for in a student’s individualized education program (IEP).~~

~~Students are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for using a personal electronic device in any manner that is academically dishonest, illegal or violates the terms of this policy¹. A referral to law enforcement officials may also be made. Personal electronic devices brought to district property or used in violation of this policy are subject to confiscation and will be released to the student's parent or property owner, as appropriate.~~

~~The superintendent shall ensure that the Board's policy and any subsequent school rules developed by building administrators are reviewed and approved in advance to ensure consistency with this policy and that pertinent provisions of policy and school rules are communicated to staff, students and parents through building handbooks and other means.~~

~~The district will not be liable for personal electronic devices brought to district property and district-sponsored activities.~~

Student use of a personal electronic device is prohibited from the start of regular instructional hours until the end of regular instructional hours, except as provided below. Personal electronic devices can be used when students are not on school grounds and are not under the supervision of school personnel (other than a school bus driver)².

Except as otherwise provided in this policy, "personal electronic device" means any portable, electrically powered device that is capable of making and receiving calls and text messages and accessing the internet independently from the school's network infrastructure.^[3] This includes headphones and earbuds attached to personal electronic devices. This does not include a laptop computer or other device required to support academic activities.

Personal electronic devices may be used when use complies with the terms of:

1. The student's medical provider's order for the care and treatment of a medical condition;⁴
2. The student's individualized education program, as defined in ORS 343.035 or an education plan developed for the student in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794);⁵

¹ ~~The taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies.~~

² If students are under the supervision of school personnel other than a school bus driver, the use of personal electronic devices is prohibited during regular instructional hours. {ODE's guidance, *Fostering Student Learning, Well-Being, and Belonging* provides that districts have discretion related to field trips. The district could include language regarding field trips here.}

³ [ODE's guidance, *Fostering Student Learning, Well-Being, and Belonging* provides "This includes personal electronic devices that can make calls, send texts, or access the internet via cellular data are restricted. This includes smartphones, web-enabled flip phones, cellular-capable tablets and e-readers, smartwatches, smart glasses, and connected headphones or earbuds. This does not include laptop computers or other devices required to support academic activities."]

⁴ JFCEB-AR must be submitted to the building administrator, along with a copy of the order.

⁵ If use of the personal electronic device is included in the individualized education program or education plan, JFCEB-AR submission is not required.

3. A written exemption provided for the student based on a request received in administrative regulation JFCEB-AR - Request for Personal Electronic Devices Exemption. School administration will respond to such a request within [10] school days.⁶

Personal electronic devices [must be placed in district-provided pouches or storage] [may be kept by students in lockers or backpacks, but personal electronic devices are not to be stored on the student's person or in the student's clothing] [may be stored on the student's person, but may not be used] during regular instructional hours.

Students in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. Discipline for mere possession or use of a personal electronic device may not include loss of instructional time for the student (including suspension or expulsion), but could. However, if the actions taken by a student violate another conduct policy, the student may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.⁷

Necessary communications during the school day while on school grounds between students and parents or guardians can be made through the school office.

The superintendent or designee shall ensure this policy is posted on the district website and made available to district personnel, students, parents, guardians, partners who are in school buildings during the school day, and the Oregon Department of Education.

In accordance with ORS 336.840, students may be allowed to use personal electronic devices⁸ that support academic activities and independent communications⁹, except as prohibited by this policy. In academic activities in which a personal electronic device is required as part of the curriculum, students may be allowed, but not required to use their own personal electronic devices for that portion of the curriculum. Students using their own device must be granted access to any applications or electronic materials that are available to students who do not use their own personal electronic devices. These applications must be free of charge if students who do not use their own devices have access free of charge.

Requests for exemptions to this policy can be processed in accordance with administrative regulation JFCEB-AR – Request for Personal Electronic Devices Exemption. Appeals can be filed [with the superintendent] [in accordance with administrative regulation KL/GBM/JFH-AR – Complaint Procedure].

The taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies.

⁶ JFCEB-AR must be submitted to the building administrator.

⁷ For example: a student could be disciplined with lost instructional time for using a personal electronic device to bully another student or for accessing inappropriate content. Discipline will be in accordance with Board policies.

⁸ The use of “personal electronic device” in this paragraph comes from ORS 336.840, which does not define the term. However, the definition in EO 25-09 wouldn't necessarily apply. Consequently, items like laptop computers or other devices required to support academic activities would likely be considered personal electronic devices within this paragraph.

⁹ “Independent communication means communication that does not require assistance or interpretation by an individual who is not part of the conversation, but that may require the use or assistance of an electronic device. ORS 336.840(1).

[This policy takes effect on January 1, 2026.]

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 336.840](#)

Oregon Executive Order 25-09