

Preston School District #201 recognizes the value and importance of electronic communication, online presence, and innovative technology tools to enhance the learning experience and work environment within the District. However, student use of personal electronic communication devices during school hours may interfere with or disrupt the educational process. *Additionally, a growing body of evidence suggests that student access to cell phones and other personal electronic communication devices during the school day is detrimental to students' emotional well-being and academic growth.* The purpose of this policy is to promote student health and safety, reduce distractions to learning during the school day, improve academic focus, prevent cyberbullying and foster responsible technology use. By placing limits on the permissible use of such electronic devices, the Board intends to adopt a policy in alignment with the State Department of Education guidance on cell phones. This policy shall apply to any electronic device not issued by the District that is capable of accessing the internet or sending an electronic message to another device, such as smart phones, other cell phones, tablets, laptops, e-readers, and smart watches.

## **DEFINITIONS**

“Personal Communication Device (PCD)” or “Devices” includes, but is not limited to, personal cell phones, tablets (e.g. iPads and similar devices), personal computers, laptops, iPods/MP3 players, electronic readers (e.g. Kindles and similar devices), pagers, and other similar devices or media players, without regard to the commercial name or manufacturer of the device, whether handheld, car models, laptop or other computer usage, or combinations of any of the above.

“Social media networks” include, but are not limited to, websites, web logs (blogs), wikis, social networks, online forums, virtual worlds, and any other social media generally available to the public that does not fall within the district’s technology network (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, blog sites, Wikipedia, etc.).

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS AND PROHIBITIONS**

Students may not use PCDs on school property or at school-sponsored activities without prior authorization. Access to devices is a privilege and not a right. The use of an form of electronic device in a manner that detracts from the educational process is prohibited. Students are required to follow the district’s Acceptable Use of Internet, Computer and Network Resources (Policy No. 942/3270) and Acceptable Use Agreement when using devices at school. Students shall comply with any additional school or classroom rules regarding the use of devices. The district is not responsible for theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to PCDs brought onto its property.

Each school in the district has specific PCD policies that must be adhered.

Franklin County High School: FCHS is a cell phone-free zone. Students are not to possess phones while in the Franklin County High School building. Students violating this policy may be dismissed from school. Students may drop the device off at the front office upon entrance into

the school and pick it up when they leave. The school is not responsible for any cell phones and/or electronic devices that are lost or stolen.

Preston High School: Student use of electronic devices (including cell phones, mp4 players, tablets, electronic games, smart watches, etc.) during class is prohibited, unless assigned by a teacher as part of an educational objective or allowed and supervised by the teacher. Teachers have a designated location for all phones to be placed within their classroom. Teachers also have the right to confiscate any device that is disruptive to the classroom environment or used inappropriately in any way.

Preston Junior High School: Electronic devices are only allowed before and after school. Electronic devices, active or inactive, are not to be used in the classroom nor in assemblies without the explicit permission of the supervising authority who may allow device use for a curricular purpose. During times electronic devices are allowed (before and after school), they shall not be used in a way that threatens, humiliates, harasses, or intimidates school-related individuals, including students, employees, and visitors, or violates local, state, or federal law. Additionally, any use of electronic devices that would cause invasions of reasonable expectations of student and employee privacy are prohibited. Camera or audio recording functions of electronic devices that may pose threats to the personal privacy of individuals, be used to exploit personal information, and/or compromise the integrity of educational programs are prohibited. Accordingly, the use of the audio recording or camera functions of electronic devices is strictly prohibited on school premises.

Oakwood Elementary: Students at Oakwood Elementary are prohibited from using cell phones and/or electronic devices at all times during the school day unless approved by school administration. Smart watches may be worn by students but should not be used without permission from an adult.

Pioneer Elementary: During the school day at Pioneer, students are prohibited from using cell phones and/or other personal electronic devices at all times. Phones are available in the classroom and the office; however, students are only allowed to call home after consultation with their teacher. GPS watches may be worn as locating devices; however, they may not be used to call or play games during school hours.

Students in all schools may only access the internet through the filtered district connection, regardless of whether they are using their personal device or a district-issued device. District staff will not provide software or technical assistance for student-owned devices.

~~Students may not use PCDs on school property or at school-sponsored activities to access and/or view Internet websites, including social media networks, that are otherwise blocked to students at school or to take part in any activity prohibited in the district's acceptable use policy.~~

Except as authorized by a teacher, administrator or a student's 504 plan or Individualized Education Program (IEP), students are prohibited from using a PCD during the school day (including while off campus on a field trip) to capture, record and/or transmit audio or images (i.e. pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person. Using a PCD to capture,

record and/or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without proper consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted.

The use of PCDs with built-in cameras is prohibited in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include, but are not limited to, locker rooms, bathrooms, shower facilities, and other locations where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes in which inappropriate or privacy violating images may be obtained. The superintendent and building principals are authorized to determine other specific locations and situations where use of a PCD is absolutely prohibited.

Students may not use a PCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. In particular, students are prohibited from using PCDs to:

1. Transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or ancestry; and
2. Engage in “sexting,” i.e., sending, receiving, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, emails or other materials of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form.
3. Engaging in any act of cyberbullying.

Students are also prohibited from using a PCD to capture and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using their PCDs to receive such information.

Parents/guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school's main office. Students may use designated school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day.

## **EXCEPTIONS**

PCDs may be used in the following circumstances:

1. With prior approval from the building principal.
2. During approved classroom instruction.
3. During an emergency situation involving the immediate health/safety of a student or other individual(s) or a risk of damage to property where school staff are not reasonably available to call for help.
4. Where use is required or authorized by a student’s 504 plan or IEP.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION**

Possession of PCDs by a student is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege. Students

who violate the privacy provisions of this policy and/or use a PCD to violate the privacy rights of another person may have their device confiscated and held until a parent/guardian picks it up and may be directed to delete the audio and/or picture/video file while the parent/guardian is present. If the violation involves potentially illegal activity the confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement.

If this policy is violated, the device will be confiscated. The specific actions regarding who can pick the device up and when are outlined in each school’s electronic device policy. The district will use reasonable care to safeguard confiscated devices, but does not assume liability in the event such confiscated devices are lost, stolen, or damaged. Additional consequences and disciplinary action for students violating the provisions of this policy may include losing the privilege of bringing the device onto school property, detention, suspension, or expulsion consistent with district policy. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity.

*If a student or parent/guardian desires to appeal the discipline imposed pursuant to this policy, they can do so by submitting a written request to the building principal within five (5) school days. If the decision being appealed was made by the building principal, the appeal may instead be made to the superintendent. Decisions of the superintendent are final.*

**IMPLEMENTATION, NOTICE AND REVIEW**

The district will ensure that students, staff, and parents/guardians are informed of this policy and how it will be implemented through publication in student handbooks, publication of the policy on the district’s website, school bulletins, classroom discussions, and other methods deemed appropriate at the direction of the superintendent or designee. The superintendent or designee shall also develop practices and/or procedures that reinforce and address the following:

1. Digital literacy;
2. Privacy concerns;
3. The effects of cyberbullying;
4. The safe use of cell phones and smart devices during emergencies;
5. The mental and physical health effects of high levels of cell phone use and social media use; and
6. Online disinformation.

A copy of this policy will be made available to all staff. The superintendent or designee may develop practices or procedures to ensure the consistent enforcement of this policy. In addition, the superintendent or designee shall ensure that a monitoring system for cell phone use is implemented, which may include classroom rules, designated storage areas, or technology monitoring tools. The superintendent shall report to the board annually about the effectiveness of this policy and shall recommend changes to it as needed.



**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

Idaho Code §33-512 – Governance of Schools

Executive Order No. 2024-11 – Phone Free Learning Act (Idaho)

**CROSS-REFERENCE:**

506 – Student Harassment

506.50 – Prohibition Against Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

540 – Maintenance of Orderly Conduct

542 – Searches by School Officials

543 – Student Suspension

544 – Student Expulsion/Denial of Enrollment

545 – Disciplining Students with Disabilities (IDEA)

546 – Disciplining Students with Disabilities (Section 504)

942/3270/3270P – Acceptable Use of Internet, Computer and Network Resources

**ADOPTED:**

**AMENDED:**

*\*Language in text set forth in italics is optional.*