

# Davis School District Policy and Procedures

**Subject: 5S-105 Student Electronic Devices**

**Index: Student Services – *Student Conduct and Discipline***

**Adopted: August 5, 2025**

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## **1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY**

The Board of Education of the Davis School District (Board) promotes an environment conducive to teaching and learning. The Board recognizes that electronic devices can be either valuable instructional tools or sources of disruption, depending on how and when they are used. In order to maintain an effective learning environment, comply with law, and to promote respect and courtesy among students, the Board adopts this policy governing student use of personal electronic devices.

## **2. PERSONAL VERSUS DISTRICT-OWNED ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

- 2.1. A personal electronic device is any electronic device that is not owned by the District.
- 2.2. Electronic devices previously belonging to the District that have been sold through the District's surplus process are no longer considered District owned devices.
- 2.3. All electronic devices, personal or District owned, that are on District property, at a District sponsored event, or are connected to District networks or District systems must comply with the contents of this and other applicable District policies, including Policy 7SS-001 Information Systems Security and 7SS-003 Technology Resources and Internet Safety.

## **3. RISK OF LOSS**

- 3.1. Personal electronic devices are susceptible to loss, theft, and damage.
- 3.2. The District is not responsible for the security or safekeeping of personal electronic devices and is not financially responsible for their loss, theft, or damage unless the device is in the custody of school employees when the damage or loss occurs.
- 3.3. Students bring personal electronic devices to school at their own risk.

## **4. PERMITTED USES**

- 4.1. The following uses are permitted in all schools:
  - 4.1.1. A student may use an electronic device
    - [a] to respond to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual;
    - [b] to respond to a school-wide emergency;
    - [c] to use the SafeUT Crisis Line as described in Utah Code Ann. §53B-17-1201 et. seq.;
    - [d] As described in a student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan; or
    - [e] to address a medical necessity.
- 4.2. The following uses are permitted in elementary schools:
  - 4.2.1. Except as provided above, Student's personal electronic device must be stowed away in a backpack or secured by the student and set to a mode where

notifications cannot be received. Students may not use a personal electronic device to send or receive messages or make phone calls during the school day.

- 4.2.2. If a student needs to communicate with a parent, the student may use a personal electronic device in the office with permission.

- 4.3. The following uses are permitted in ~~secondary schools (High Schools and Junior~~ junior High-high Schools schools:)

- 4.3.1. Student's personal electronic device must be stowed away in a backpack or secured by the student and set to a mode where notifications cannot be received. While smart watches may be worn, they must also be set so that notifications cannot be sent nor received during classroom hours.

- 4.3.2. Cell phones may be used before school, after school, ~~during class changes~~, and during lunch.

- 4.3.3. Students' personal electronic devices may not be used to send or receive messages or make phone calls when using a hall pass during class, unless the student is in the office with permission.

- 4.4. The following uses are permitted in high schools:

- 4.4.1. Student's personal electronic device must be stowed away in a backpack or secured by the student and set to a mode where notifications cannot be received. While smart watches may be worn, they must also be set so that notifications cannot be sent nor received during classroom hours.

- 4.4.2. Cell phones may be used before school, after school, during class changes, and during lunch.

- ~~4.3.3.~~ Students' personal electronic devices may not be used to send or receive messages or make phone calls when using a hall pass during class, unless the student is in the office with permission.

## 5. PROHIBITED USES

- 5.1. Students shall not use personal electronic devices for:

- 5.1.1. activities which disrupt the educational environment or significantly impair academic excellence;
- 5.1.2. illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations;
- 5.1.3. unethical activities, including but not limited to cheating on assignments or tests;
- 5.1.4. immoral or pornographic activities, including but not limited to sexting;
- 5.1.5. activities which threaten, humiliate, harass, or intimidate others;
- 5.1.6. activities in violation of Board or school policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment;
- 5.1.7. activities which violate the privacy of others; or
- 5.1.8. activities which constitute bullying or cyberbullying.

- 5.2. Individual schools have the discretion to further prohibit student use of electronic devices including during class breaks, lunch periods, or other times during school. ~~Schools~~ Principals also have the discretion to designate certain times and/or areas on the school campus for student use of electronic devices during school hours. Principals should communicate any additional school-level restrictions clearly to students and parents.

- 5.3. Student use of electronic devices may be prohibited during state and federally mandated tests and assessments, unless specifically allowed by law, an IEP, a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, a Health Care Plan, or testing/assessment directions.

## **6. VIOLATIONS**

Schools will investigate and determine when student conduct violates this policy in keeping with the framework laid out in the District's [Student Code of Conduct](#). Schools will clearly communicate to parents the expectations regarding electronic devices in schools and provide access to the Student Code of Conduct upon request.

## **7. SEARCHES**

- 7.1. Students in public K–12 schools retain certain constitutional rights, including rights under the Fourth Amendment; however, their expectation of privacy is limited in the school environment. The unique context of public education permits school officials to exercise greater authority over student conduct than would be permissible in other public settings. In particular, the expectation of privacy must be balanced against the school's obligation to maintain discipline, safety, and an appropriate educational environment.
- 7.2. Notwithstanding paragraph 7.1, browsing the content of a student's phone, tablet, or other personal electronic device is considered a search and may be conducted only consistent with the procedures laid out in District Policy 5S-100 Student Conduct and Discipline. Mere presence of the device, even in violation of a class or school rule, is insufficient to justify searching the device's content unless reasonable suspicion exists that the content itself will reveal violation of law or policy.
- 7.3. Expansion of a reasonable search into other areas of the phone not reasonable related to the initial search must be justified by additional reasonable suspicion. As such, school officials may conduct searches of students or their personal effects without a warrant or probable cause, provided that the search is reasonable at its inception and in scope.

## **8. RECORDING OR STREAMING**

- 8.1. Electronic devices with the capacity to record, stream, or otherwise transmit images or audio may not be used at any time in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include, but are not limited to, locker rooms, showers, restrooms, and any other areas where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or undress.
- 8.2. The superintendent, directors, and building principals are authorized to determine other specific locations and situations where use of an electronic device is absolutely prohibited. Students are encouraged to request permission from building principals before recording anywhere in a school building.
- 8.3. Students may not record, stream, or otherwise transmit images, videos, or audio captured with an electronic device in a way that constitutes a prohibited use under Section 5 of this policy or that otherwise violates District policy.
- ~~8.4.~~ 8.4. In addition to disciplinary action by the District, unauthorized recording or transmitting may subject a student to civil or criminal liability, including eavesdropping or invasion of privacy.



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**DEFINITIONS**

**“Cell Phone”** is defined in Utah Code Ann. §53G-7-226 and means a handheld, portable electronic device that is designed to be operated using one or both hands and is capable of transmitting and receiving voice, data, or text communication by means of: a cellular network; a satellite network; or any other wireless technology. This definition includes: a smartphone, a feature phone, a mobile phone, a satellite phone, or a personal digital assistant that incorporates capabilities similar to a smartphone, feature phone, mobile phone, or satellite phone.

**“Classroom hours”** is defined in Utah Code Ann. §53G-7-226 and means time during which a student receives scheduled, teacher-supervised instruction that occurs: in a physical or virtual classroom setting; during regular school operating hours; and as part of an approved educational curriculum. This does not include: lunch periods, recess, transit time between classes, study halls unless directly supervised by a qualified instructor, after-school activities unless part of an approved extended learning program, or independent study time occurring outside scheduled instruction.

**“Electronic device”** means a cellphone, a smart watch, or emerging technology, as defined in this policy.

**“Emergent technology”** is defined in Utah Code Ann. §53G-7-226 and means any other device that has or will be able to act in place of or as an extension of an individual’s cellphone and does not include school provided or required devices.

**“Smart watch”** is defined in Utah Code Ann. §53G-7-226 and means a wearable computing device that closely resembles a wristwatch or other time-keeping device with the capability to act in place of or as an extension of an individual’s cellphone. This definition does not include a wearable device that can only tell time, monitor an individual’s health performance, receive and display notifications or information without the ability to respond, or track the individual’s physical location.

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**REFERENCES**

Utah Code Ann. § 53G-7-226 – Cellular device prohibition

[Utah Administrative Code R277-495](#) – Electronic Devices in Public Schools

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**RELATED POLICIES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS**

5S-100 Student Conduct and Discipline

7SS-001 Information Systems Security

7SS-003 Technology Resources and Internet Safety

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

*Acceptable Use Agreements*

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**DOCUMENT HISTORY:**

**Adopted:** Aug 5, 2025 in compliance with SB178 (2025).