

West Bonner County School District

STUDENTS

3265

Student-Owned Electronic Communications Devices

The Board of Trustees recognizes the value of digital communication and collaboration in the context of a modern learning environment. Cell phones/electronic devices may serve as an outstanding instructional tool and learning resource if used appropriately. We encourage our staff members and our students to use electronics and other 21st century devices to supplement instruction and learning.

There has been a rising concern that spending too much time on social media or using cell phones/electronic devices may be detrimental to students' physical and mental health. The following parameters on the use of student-owned cell phones/electronic devices at school are put in place to ensure students are engaged without distraction.

By placing limits on the permissible use of such electronic devices, the Board intends to:

1. align use of cell phones/electronic devices with the State Department of Education guidance on cell phones/electronic devices
2. promote student safety
3. support staff in maintaining an environment that encourages learning
4. reduce distractions to the learning environment
5. improve academic focus
6. promote responsible technology use
7. prevent cyberbullying
8. mitigate the privacy concerns posed by personal electronic devices

This policy shall apply to all cell phones/electronic devices not issued by the District that may be sending electronic messages to another device, such as smart phones, other cell phones, tablets, laptops, e-readers, smart watches, and any other device that may not be listed.

Restrictions on Time and Location of Use

The District is committed to ~~“ODD AND AWAY”~~ OR **“DISTRACTION-FREE LEARNING”** with the goal of preserving the integrity of our learning environments and to reduce unnecessary distractions in classrooms.

Students are prohibited from using cell phones in the following times and places:

1. during class time
2. during passing periods
3. during lunch

4. in bathrooms, locker rooms, or changing rooms
5. students will not have access to any personal wireless digital device on the school campus during the school day (including cell phones, smart watches, and other personal mobile or wearable technology. Earbuds and headphones are not allowed except when associated with a teacher-approved educational purpose, used as an assistive technology, or as part of IEPs or Section 504 Plans.
6. cell phones and other personal wireless devices can be used after the end-of-school bell. They must be in "Silent Mode," (or turned off) including no haptics (vibrations) or other notifications when at school. Smart Watches must be in "Airplane Mode."
7. a students with an urgent need are is to contact their parent/guardian during the school day should visit the main office, where administrative staff will work through the situation with the student. Any parent/guardian should call the school office.

Students are permitted to use cell phones/electronic devices during the following times and in the following places:

1. before and after the school day
2. at school activities outside of school hours
3. in class when specifically allowed by the teacher

Any use of a cell phone/electronic device required for instructional use as noted in a student's 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) shall be permitted regardless of whether it would otherwise violate this policy.

Students may use a personal electronic device in the case of an emergency to contact help. An emergency is an event that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of any person or a risk of damage to property. If a student needs to use a personal electronic device in such an emergency, they should ensure they are in as safe a location as is possible.

If a student's parent/guardian or their designee needs to contact a student in the case of an emergency at a time when student cell phone use is not permitted, the parent/guardian or designee should call the school office and ask the administration to relay the message or bring the student to the office to speak with the parent/guardian or designee by phone or in-person.

Containment of Devices

When use of personal electronic devices is not permitted, such devices must be stored in:

1. the student's locker or cubby
2. the student's bag, purse, or pocket and out of sight
3. a location in the classroom designated by the teacher
4. a location in the school designated by the principal
5. a secure bag or other receptacle provided to the student by the teacher or principal

District schools may set further procedures additional rules to ensure this policy is followed upon approval of the Superintendent. The District may also make use of technology-based approaches, such as monitoring or blocking internet access.

~~Students are responsible for safeguarding cell phones/ devices they bring to school. The District shall not be responsible for loss, theft, damages, or destruction of student owned devices brought onto school property~~

Use of Devices

Any use of personal electronic devices at school or at school events shall comply with the Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks (Board Policy 3270). Student-owned cell phones/electronic devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational learning environment, including, but not limited to, posing a threat to academic integrity or violating confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual.

Access to the devices is a privilege and not a right. Each student will be required to follow the Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks Policy and the Internet Access Conduct Agreement.

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

Because power cords stretched out in classrooms become a safety issue both for the students and devices, charging the device in any classroom, hallway, or any other location that may be a safety concern will not be allowed.

~~The use of cameras on any type of electronic device is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, and classrooms unless a certified District employee authorizes the student to do otherwise with direct supervision. Where students are allowed to use electronic devices, they are required to obtain permission before taking a photograph or video of any individual. Students must also obtain permission from any individual appearing in a photograph or video prior to posting on any social networking site or other internet site.~~

Students found to be using any electronic communications device to in any way send or receive personal messages, data, or information that would contribute to or constitute cheating on any student assessment, project, or assignment shall be subject to discipline ~~and the device shall be confiscated and not returned until a parent conference has been held.~~

Students are responsible for the devices they bring to school. The District shall not be responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of devices brought onto school property.

Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning appropriate use of telecommunication or other electronic devices.

Disciplinary Action

Students who violate the provisions of this policy are subject to disciplinary action, including losing the privilege of bringing the device onto school property, detention, suspension, and/or confiscation of the device until it is retrieved by the student's parent/guardian. In addition, an administrator will confiscate the devices, which shall only be returned to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). Where appropriate, police authorities may be contacted. If a student or a parent/guardian wishes to appeal such disciplinary action, they can do so by submitting a written request for appeal to the building principal as outlined in the student handbook.

Violation of this policy may also result in suspension or expulsion, as described in Policy 3340 Corrective Actions and Punishment, if appropriate.

1st and 2nd Violation/Offenses

- The device will be handed over to school staff and delivered to the office.
- Parent/guardian will be notified
- Devices are held in the office until the end of the day.
- Student or parent/guardian will sign for the device when picking it up from the office.

Subsequent Violations/Offenses

- The student will be asked to hand over their device to school staff* and delivered to the office
- Parent/guardian will be notified.
- Devices are held in the office until the end of the day.
- Parent/Guardian will sign for the device when picking it up from the office.
- Parent/Guardian and student will conference with an administrator or designee.
- Student may be assigned to serve a Temporary Suspension as a disciplinary consequence followed by progressive discipline for failure to follow a reasonable request.

* Refusal and/or failure to turn over the device is considered failure to follow a reasonable request and result in the action taken on the progressive disciplinary plan.

Implementation & Review of Policy

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee to inform staff, students, and parents/guardians about this policy and how it will be implemented. The District shall make this policy publicly available on its website and shall include a link to this policy in a prominent location on the website.

The Board also directs the Superintendent or their designee to develop practices that reinforce the importance of and ways of addressing:

1. Digital literacy lessons;
2. The effects of cyberbullying;
3. Privacy concerns; and
4. Online disinformation.

The Superintendent shall report to the Board each year about the effectiveness of this policy and shall recommend changes to it as needed.

Legal References

Executive Order 2024-11

IC § 33-1025

IC § 33-132

IC § 33-6801

IC § 33-6802

Policy Checklist for LEAs

Description

Phone Free Learning Act

Wireless Technology Standards

Local School Boards — Internet Use Policy Required

Definitions

Distraction-Free Learning

by the Idaho Department of Education

Cross References

3270

3270-P(1)

3270-F(1)

3340

3340-P(1)

Description

District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks

District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks - Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks

District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks - INTERNET ACCESS CONDUCT AGREEMENT

Corrective Actions, Punishment, and Denial of Enrollment

Corrective Actions, Punishment, and Denial of Enrollment

Policy History:

Adopted on: March 12, 2008

Revised on: February 5, 2013