

Cell Phone Policy Update

Board of Education Policy Subcommittee
New Fairfield Public Schools
February 25, 2026



NFPS BOE Policy 5131.81

- At **New Fairfield Elementary School**, devices are to be kept in the student's locker from entry to exit so that it is not a distraction during the school day (*all devices - cell phones, smartwatches, etc.*).
- At **New Fairfield Middle School**, devices are to be kept in the student's locker from entry to exit so that it is not a distraction during the school day (*"bell-to-bell"*).
- At **New Fairfield High School**, students are required to put their devices in the classroom in a location designated by the administration for the entire class period. These devices may not be taken out of the holder to go to the bathroom.

New Fairfield Elementary School (PK-5)

- NFES follows the BOE policy as it is written.
 - Only 1 level one offense this year.
- Related focus / action steps:
 - Increasing opportunities for screen-free learning.
 - Promoting social interactions without technology during indoor recess.

New Fairfield Middle School (Grades 6-8)

- NFMS follows the BOE policy as it is written.
- Improved social engagement in the cafeteria
- Fewer incidents of “cyber-drama”
- Fewer distractions, increased engagement
- Increased compliance

1st Offense	
Grade	# of Students
6th	3
7th	7
8th	23

2nd Offense	
Grade	# of Students
6th	0
7th	1
8th	4

3rd Offense	
Grade	# of Students
6th	0
7th	0
8th	1

New Fairfield High School (Grades 9-12)

- Classroom violations greatly reduced from last year
 - **2/17/2025: 369 referrals** (after starting 10/28)
 - **2/17/2026: 87 referrals**
- Students value having some agency over phone use
- Widespread staff support for Chromebook policy change, not for personal device change

2026-2027 Plan

Maintain current practices with some refinement during Study Halls.

- Opportunity to help guide students
- Parents, coaches value being able to communicate prior to 2:05
- Balancing technology changes