

HISD FAQ

CELL PHONE

(PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICE)

POLICY UPDATE



"Collaboratively Creating a Supportive, Focused and Safe Learning Environment for ALL Hornets."

WHY...is Huntsville ISD updating its cell phone policy?

To comply with recent legislation signed into law, House Bill 1481, limits personal communication device usage during the instructional day.

WHAT...devices does the new policy apply to?

- The term personal telecommunication device includes:
 - Cell phones, smart phones, flip phones, smartwatches, tablets, radio device, headphones/earbuds, any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication

ARE...headphones/earbuds banned entirely?

- Headphones/earbuds are not allowed during the school day except for district issued headphones/earbuds to be used for instructional purposes.

WHEN...can my child use their device?

- Only before or after school. Students are NOT allowed to use their devices during the instructional day (Between 7:20 am or arrival on campus and ending bell of the day) This includes no use during passing periods or lunch.

My child has a medical condition. Can they keep their phone for health reasons?

- Yes. Students with documented medical needs that require phone access may receive individual accommodations. Parents should provide documentation to the school nurse and campus administration for approval.

What if my child's special education or 504 plans require use of their personal communication device?

- Exemptions to the policy can be made if a student's IEP or 504 plan require use of a personal telecommunication device pending administrative approval.

What if there is a personal or medical emergency?

- If there is a personal or medical emergency involving your student, your child may; request to call you from the front office, AP office, or nurse's office.

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What if I need to get in touch with my student?

- Since your student's personal telecommunication device is stowed away during the instructional day, the most efficient way for you to get in touch with your student is to communicate your message to the front office staff of the campus so they can assist you in a timely manner of notifying your student.

What if an after school activity, practice or club is cancelled?

- In the event a practice, club or other after school activity has been canceled, campus administrators and staff will assist students with contacting their parents or guardians as soon as possible.

What happens during a lockdown or safety event?

- In an emergency:
 - Students are expected to follow staff directions and remain calm.
 - Phones should not be used during lockdowns to prevent the spread of misinformation or drawing attention.
 - HISD will communicate updates directly with families using official mass communication platforms via phone calls, emails and text messages.
- Student safety is our top priority and this policy aligns with our standard response protocols thus reducing confusion during critical events.

How is my student's phone or device handled if it is confiscated?

- The consequences for unauthorized use of a device is based on the student's grade level and campus.
- The device will be confiscated with each offense and held in the school office and returned to the student at the end of the day pending parent contact. Further offenses could result in additional disciplinary action per the code of conduct and require the parent to retrieve the device.

Is the district responsible for damage or loss of devices?

- No. HISD is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal devices, including those that are confiscated. Students and families are encouraged to leave valuables at home or use devices responsibly.

Where are the confiscated devices stored? Are they safe?

- Yes. Confiscated devices are kept in a locked and secure location in the campus office and are only handled by authorized staff.

How can I help as a parent/guardian?

- Talk to your student about responsible device use during the instructional school day and remind them of the campus policy.
- Ensure your contact information is up to date in skyward.
- Reach out to your campus with questions or concerns.