



Expect
More.

Device-Free Schools Implementation Plan

*Presented to the School Board
May 20, 2025*



We are implementing a
device-free policy as a way
to prioritize students' academic
success and emotional well-being.

Policy 524.5: Personal Electronic Communication Devices

1. All students (preK-12) are **prohibited from using personal electronic communication devices** - including phones, smart watches, earbuds, etc. - on school premises **from the first bell of the school day to the last**. This includes instructional time, lunch periods, recess, school-sponsored programs, events or activities, or any other time during the designated school day.
2. All personal electronic communication devices shall be **kept in designated areas** and turned off.

Approved March 4, 2025

**OFF
AND
AWAY
ALL
DAY**



DEVICES OFF



LEARNING ON

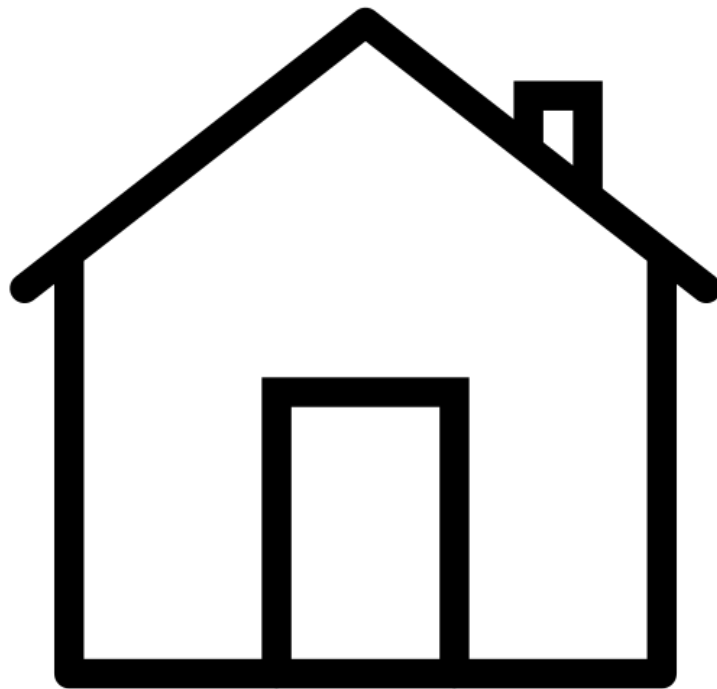


Why a Phone/Device-Free Policy?

- Improved student mental health
- Fewer distractions
- Less cyberbullying
- Fewer fights and social media related drama
- Increased engagement in class
- Improved attendance
- Improved teacher morale and retention
- Less mid-class absenteeism
- More face-to-face conversations
- Less cheating
- Less reported stress among students

Source: Phone-Free Schools Administrator Toolkit





Leave Devices At Home!



Bring A Device? Lock It Up

- Students who choose to bring their devices to school are responsible for turning them in at the start of the day
- Devices will be turned off and stored in designated area throughout the school day
- Students will retrieve their phones/devices at the end of the day

NOTE: Procedures are school-specific. Details will be shared with families prior to the start of the school year.

Students who choose to bring a device to school at their own risk.

School and/or school staff is **not liable for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.**



Response To Non-Compliance

If a student is found with a device during school day:

1. Staff will take the device to the Main Office for secure storage
2. The violation will be documented

Response for Repeated Violations

- **1st and 2nd Offenses:**
 - A parent/guardian must retrieve the device in person; Policy will be shared with families
- **3rd Offense:**
 - Mandatory conference with the student, parent/guardian, and administration
 - Response plan developed with family
 - Possible referral to an education program to address patterns of inappropriate device use



Policy Exceptions

- Use allowed under an **IEP, 504 Plan, or documented health care plan**
- Use allowed to monitor or address a health concern or medical condition upon permission granted by school administration
- Families will work with Student Support Services to determine and document the need



Other Ways To Communicate

- Parents and/or guardians who need to contact their student during the school day may do so by calling the main office
- A phone will be available in the main office for students who need to call their families during school hours





Safety & Emergency Concerns

School security experts say phones can make children less safe in a crisis:

- Phones can distract students' attention from safety and emergency response directions being given by school staff
- Phones can hamper rumor control and, in doing so, disrupt and delay effective public safety personnel response
- Phone use can impede public safety response by accelerating parental and community arrival at the scene of an emergency during times when officials may be attempting to evacuate students to another site
- Victims and worried family members trying to get through can jam communications, interfering with first responders

Source: Phone-Free Schools Administrator Toolkit



Next Steps

- Principals working with staff to develop building-specific implementation plan
- Student Handbooks to be updated this summer
- Staff training this fall
- District-wide communication campaign for students and families to launch this fall
- Ongoing feedback/evaluation



**Less Media.
More Social.**



Devices off



Engagement on



QUESTIONS