

Ashland School District 5

Code: JFCEB
Adopted: 10/10/24; [approval date]

Personal Electronic Devices**

Student personal electronic devices must be powered off and securely stored from the time students enter the school campus until they exit the school campus, unless expressly allowed under the exceptions listed below. Personal electronic devices can be used when students are not on school grounds and are not under the supervision of school personnel (other than a school bus driver)¹.

Except as otherwise provided in this policy, “personal electronic device” means any portable, electrically powered device that is capable of making and receiving calls and text messages and accessing the internet independently from the school’s network infrastructure.² This includes headphones and earbuds attached to personal electronic devices. This does not include a laptop computer or other device required to support academic activities.

Personal electronic devices may be used when use complies with the terms of:

1. The student’s medical provider’s order for the care and treatment of a medical condition;³
2. The student’s individualized education program, as defined in ORS 343.035 or an education plan developed for the student in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794);⁴
3. A written exemption provided for the student based on a request received in JFCEB-AR. School administration will respond to such a request within 10 school days.⁵

Personal electronic devices may be kept by students in lockers or backpacks, as designated by each school, but personal electronic devices are not to be stored on the student’s person or in the student’s clothing during regular instructional hours.

¹ If students are under the supervision of school personnel other than a school bus driver, the use of personal electronic devices is prohibited during regular instructional hours. {ODE’s guidance, *Fostering Student Learning, Well-Being, and Belonging* provides that districts have discretion related to field trips. The district could include language regarding field trips here.}

² ODE’s guidance, *Fostering Student Learning, Well-Being, and Belonging* provides “This includes personal electronic devices that can make calls, send texts, or access the internet via cellular data are restricted. This includes smartphones, web-enabled flip phones, cellular-capable tablets and e-readers, smartwatches, smart glasses, and connected headphones or earbuds. This does not include laptop computers or other devices required to support academic activities.”

³ JFCEB-AR must be submitted to the building administrator, along with a copy of the order.

⁴ If use of the personal electronic device is included in the individualized education program or education plan, JFCEB-AR submission is not required.

⁵ JFCEB-AR must be submitted to the building administrator.

Students in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. Discipline for mere possession or use of a personal electronic device may not include loss of instructional time for the student (including suspension or expulsion), but could include detention or a change to storage requirements, etc.⁶ However, if the actions taken by a student violate another conduct policy, the student may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.⁷ Steps may include:

1. First Instance of Noncompliance: staff will give the student a verbal reminder of the policy and expectations to reinforce appropriate use of personal electronic devices;
2. Second Instance of Noncompliance: the device will be temporarily confiscated and held at the front office until the end of the school day. Parents or guardians will be notified, and a meeting with school administration may be scheduled to discuss ways to support the student;
3. Third Instance of Noncompliance: the device will again be temporarily held, parents or guardians will be informed, and parents or guardians will be required to pick up the device from the school office during regular business hours. A meeting with school administration and family may be arranged to review the policy and plan for improved compliance;
4. Beyond Third Instance of Noncompliance: If noncompliance continues, schools will determine additional appropriate consequences, always prioritizing keeping students in class and engaged in learning.⁸

Necessary communications during the school day while on school grounds between students and parents or guardians can be made through the school office.

The superintendent or designee shall ensure this policy is posted on the district website and made available to district personnel, students, parents, guardians, partners who are in school buildings during the school day, and the Oregon Department of Education.

In accordance with ORS 336.840, students may be allowed to use personal electronic devices⁹ that support academic activities and independent communications¹⁰, except as prohibited by this policy. In academic activities in which a personal electronic device is required as part of the curriculum, students may be allowed, but not required to use their own personal electronic devices for that portion of the curriculum. Students using their own device must be granted access to any applications or electronic materials that are available to students who do not use their own personal electronic devices. These applications must be free of charge if students who do not use their own devices have access free of charge.

⁶ Correction may include requiring a student to store their device in a classroom storage space instead of in the backpack.

⁷ For example: a student could be disciplined with lost instructional time for using a personal electronic device to bully another student or for accessing inappropriate content. Discipline will be in accordance with Board policies.

⁸ From guidance from the Oregon Department of Education. Consider whether these procedures apply at all grade levels and whether this much detail is desired in policy.

⁹ The use of “personal electronic device” in this paragraph comes from ORS 336.840, which does not define the term. However, the definition in EO 25-09 wouldn’t necessarily apply. Consequently, items like laptop computers or other devices required to support academic activities would likely be considered personal electronic devices within this paragraph.

¹⁰ “Independent communication means communication that does not require assistance or interpretation by an individual who is not part of the conversation, but that may require the use or assistance of an electronic device. ORS 336.840(1).

Requests for exemptions to this policy can be processed in accordance with JFCEB-AR – Request for Personal Electronic Devices Exemption. Appeals can be filed with the superintendent or designee.

The taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 336.840](#)

Oregon Executive Order 25-09