

STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In order to promote the best educational experience, students should feel connected to their educational environment and to others in the school community. Building meaningful connections can occur in a variety of ways. Technology has advanced peoples' ability to connect with one another across a variety of virtual platforms, and when used appropriately, adds value to the learning environment. However, it is vital to the developmental health and growth of students that the district provides opportunities for students to connect with peers and other members of their school community in-person whenever possible. In-person learning and interactions teach vital life and social skills that students will need for their continued success in the community.

For this reason, **student use of personal electronic devices during instructional time is prohibited**. Students have access to district-owned electronic devices as appropriate for the instructional needs of the learning environment and authorized by the classroom teacher. Parents or guardians who need to communicate with students during instructional time may contact the school building administrative office.

Instructional time is defined to mean the following:

- **High School (grades 9-12):** periods of classroom instruction from the beginning of the class bell until the end of the class bell; does not include lunch and passing periods.
- **Elementary and Middle School (grades K-8):** the entire school day from morning bell time until afternoon bell time; does include lunch and passing periods.

Personal electronic devices means any device that is capable of electronically communicating, sending, receiving, storing, recording, reproducing and/or displaying information and data. This includes, but is not limited to, electronic communication equipment, mobile phone, smart phones, video game devices and portable media players. Students may wear smart or electronic watches, but may not use any communication applications or features that are prohibited from use on other electronic devices and **all notifications must be turned off**.

This policy shall not be interpreted as prohibiting authorized students from using personal electronic devices as directed by an IEP, 504, Health Plan, and/or other authorized assistive technology purpose.

Parent or guardians of students may request to the Director of Student and At-Risk Services that a student retain access to the student's personal electronic device during instructional time if documented proof related to the student's mental or physical health has been provided. This must be tied to the student's multi-tiered system of support framework. Any denials may be appealed to the Superintendent, who will be the final decisionmaker on the request.

Students who choose to use personal electronic devices outside instructional time but while on school property, at school-sponsored events, or in a manner that may impact the educational environment must use these devices in accordance with all applicable laws and Board policies. Students who violate this policy may face disciplinary consequences up to and including suspension or expulsion. The Superintendent, in conjunction with

district leadership and building level administration, will develop administrative regulations in accordance with this policy.

Legal Ref: 16 C.F.R. 312
34 C.F.R. pt. 99
47 C.F.R. 54.520
Iowa Code 279.8

ADOPTED: 2/28/11
7/14/25

Reviewed: 2/3/11, 5/3/12, 6/5/25