

CELL PHONE POLICY

2024 - 2025

Santa Fe ISD Junior High and High School

Santa Fe ISD permits students to have cell phone devices, but they must be powered off and kept in a bag, purse, or backpack during the school day with the exception of before and after school and during lunch. The school day includes but is not limited to, class time, passing periods, restroom breaks, after-school detention, school spirit events, and/or school-day extra-curricular events.

Expectations

1. Cell phones must be powered off during the school day.
2. Placing a cell phone on vibrate or texting is not considered "off" and is prohibited, except before school, during lunch for secondary students, or after school.
3. Headphones and other Bluetooth-enabled devices (earphones/earbuds) are not permitted to be worn on campus. They must be put away securely by the student, except before school, during lunch for secondary students, or after school.
4. Cell phones are not to be used in the hallways, restrooms, or any common area during the school day, except before school, during lunch, or after school.
5. Cell phones must be turned into the classroom teacher prior to using the restroom.
6. Using a cell phone to record or videotape anyone or any situation is prohibited (this includes recording fights/altercations.)
7. A staff member may confiscate a cell phone/electronic device if it rings, vibrates, is used for any reason without the teacher's permission, or if caught using it on campus during the school day except before school, during lunch, or after school.
8. Students may wear watches with cell phone capabilities (smart watches) as long as they are set in airplane mode. Students who are found in use of their smartwatch for cellular purposes (calls/texts) will have their smartwatch confiscated.
9. Students may carry their backpack/bag/purse during an emergency drill. Therefore, students will have access to their cell phones in case of an emergency.

Exceptions

Exceptions will be made with a medical note from a doctor. Please contact a school nurse for approval.

Inappropriate Use or Severe Violations

Inappropriate use or severe violations include, but are not limited to:

1. Electronic communication that contains inappropriate content, profanity, intimidation, or threats to others;
2. Sexting, which includes intentionally creating, producing, distributing, presenting, transmitting, posting, exchanging, disseminating, or possessing, through any computer or digital media, any photograph or digitized image or any visual depiction of a person in any condition of nudity, or involved in any prohibited sexual act;
3. Bullying (this includes cyber-bullying);

4. Academic dishonesty or cheating;
5. Possession and/or use during state testing;
6. The use of camera or recording features of cell phones and portable digital media devices in restrooms, locker rooms, common areas, classrooms or for any use constituting an invasion of any person's reasonable expectation of privacy (this includes recording fights and other altercations);
7. Communicating in a way with outside groups or individuals to participate in violent acts or other inappropriate or unlawful activities on school property or at school-sponsored events;
8. Refusal to relinquish the phone to any staff member upon request.

*According to the Student Code of Conduct, failure to comply with a staff directive to turn in a cell phone will be considered defiance of authority, and insubordination will result in disciplinary action. Any violation of these guidelines, which causes or involves a distraction or interruption of transportation, the instructional environment, or leads to the violation of other district rules or policies, will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students engaging in the inappropriate uses or severe violations above are subject to, at minimum, Level 2 disciplinary consequences which include after school detention, Saturday detention, ISS, OSS, or DAEP. See the District Code of Conduct.

Violation Consequences

Violation of the cell phone guidelines will result in the following:

First Offense

1. Confiscation of the phone
2. Parent Contact
3. The phone will be turned into the office. The student will retrieve the phone from the office.

Second Offense

1. Confiscation of the phone
2. Parent Contact
3. After School Detention (assigned by an administrator)
4. The phone will be turned into the office. The student will retrieve the phone from the office.

Third Offense

1. Confiscation of the phone
2. Parent Contact
3. Saturday School Detention (assigned by an administrator)
4. The phone will be turned into the office. The student will retrieve the phone from the office.

Fourth Offense

1. The cell phone will be confiscated, turned into the office, and returned to a parent after school that day.
2. 1 day of ISS
3. Per Texas Education Code 37.082, a \$15.00 administrative fee will be collected.

Fifth or More Offense

1. The cell phone will be confiscated, turned into the office, and returned to a parent after school that day.
2. 1 day of ISS
3. Per Texas Education Code 37.082, a \$15.00 administrative fee will be collected.
4. The cell phone will be prohibited for the remainder of the semester. This means that the phone may not be in a purse/bag/or backpack and may not be used before or after school or during lunch.
5. Students will be required to leave their phone in their vehicle/at home, or turn in their phones upon entry and will be dealt with on an individual basis, at administrator discretion.

ISS and DAEP

All students going to ISS or DAEP will be required to turn in their cell phone at the beginning of the day and may be subject to additional screening with the metal detectors or a security wand.

Communication of Important Messages**Parents Communicating with Students**

We understand how important it is for parents to be able to contact their child/children during the day for various reasons. If a parent/guardian needs to get a non-emergency message to their student, they can send their child a text message, which can be viewed before school, during lunch, or after school, or use a designated link that will be provided on the campus website. In the case of an emergency, a parent should call the front office (1st) or use the emergency message link that will be posted on the website (2nd).

Students Communicating with Parents

If a student needs to get a message to a parent/guardian, they will be allowed to use classroom or personal phones at the appropriate time with the permission of a teacher.