



July 16, 2024

Dear York School District One Families:

The 2024-25 school year will begin on August 1<sup>st</sup> for students. With the start of the school year near, we want to inform you of a new state law that school districts are required to implement this school year.

Per the FY 2024-25 Appropriations Act and Proviso 1.103 ***students in South Carolina's public schools are not permitted to access their cell phones or any other personal electronic device during the school day (beginning bell to ending bell).***

In compliance with the above law, beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>, the following rules will be in place on all school campuses (elementary, middle, and high school):

- Students may only access their cell phones before the start of the school day and then after the school day ends.
- Students may not access and use their cell phones at any point during the school day, which includes transitions between classes, in hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, etc.
- Students may use their cell phones during after school activities.
- As a best practice, cell phones should be turned off at the beginning of and throughout the school day and placed in bookbags, handbags, or personal storage space, and out of visibility.

While this may be an adjustment for many of our high school students, it is an opportunity for students to focus on their academics and limit distractions. We highly encourage you to share this information prior to the start of the school year with your child so that he or she is prepared to start the school year under these new guidelines. School administrators and staff will also communicate this information with students on the first day of school, and this information will be reflected in our 2024-25 student/parent handbooks. In the event you have an urgent matter that needs to be communicated to your child, please plan to contact school office personnel as staff will make every effort to communicate the information to your child.

Students will be expected to follow all rules and procedures associated with this state law. Any student who chooses to access their cell phone at any time during the school day or participates in unauthorized use of a cell phone will be subject to consequences outlined in Board Policy *AR-JICJ-R Possession/Use of Electronic Communication Devices in School*.

We look forward to a great school year of working collaboratively with families to help student engage and focus on academics during the school day. With your partnership and support, we can create a safe and productive learning environment that limits distraction for all students.

Sincerely,

Kevin Queen  
Director of Student Services/Safety