



Fall River Public Schools Secondary Schools Cell Phone Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all students by minimizing distractions and promoting engagement during school hours. All secondary schools in the FRPS will be cell phone free during the school day.

We will accomplish this through the following models:

YONDR cell phone pouches	Turn-In Protocol:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● B.M.C. Durfee High School● Morton Middle School● Kuss Middle School● Talbot Middle School● Henry Lord Community School● Doran Community School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Stone Therapeutic Day School● RLM, RPA

Policy Statement

Effective immediately, students are required to place their cell phones in a locked Yondr pouch at the beginning of the school day. The pouches will be unlocked at the end of the school day, allowing students to regain access to their phones.

Procedures

As students arrive to school, they will:

1. Turn cell phones, watches, etc. to off or to silent mode.
2. Place their phone, airpods/earbuds, and smart watch inside their Yondr pouch and **lock it in front of school staff,**
3. Store their pouch in their backpack or locker for the day,
4. This process may take a few minutes. **Students are responsible for getting to class on time with a secured pouch.**

During the School Day:

1. Students will keep their phone, airpods/earbuds, and smart watch inside their Yondr Pouch for the duration of the school day.
2. If a student needs to leave school grounds for an appointment, or a school event, they may unlock the pouch upon leaving and lock it upon re-entry.
3. Students may not access their phone during the school day anywhere on school grounds unless they are leaving school grounds. *Students leaving early will unlock their phone in the Main Office.

End of School Day:

1. When the school day ends, students will unlock their pouch using the unlocking base at their school's designated area.



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2. Students will remove their phone and store their empty pouch in their backpack or bag for the next day.
3. Students are free to use their phones on school grounds after school ends UNLESS they are required to attend after-school detention, credit recovery classes, or Saturday school.

Exemptions

Exceptional circumstances

Individual students may have extenuating reasons for needing access to their personal device during school hours, such as where:

- the device is used to monitor or help manage a health condition
- the device is a negotiated adjustment to a learning program for a student with a disability or learning difficulties
- the student has extenuating personal circumstances that require them to have more ready access to their personal device including being a parent themselves or a primary carer to a younger sibling or unwell family member.

Please contact the school if you need to request an exemption due to exceptional circumstances. Requests based on disability-related needs will be addressed through the IEP and/or Section 504 process, as appropriate. Other requests will be considered by the principal on a case-by-case basis. If approved, the exemption will be recorded in the student's file or health care/learning plan as appropriate.

Unmet Expectations

Each of the following violations will result in the student's phone and/or pouch being confiscated by school staff and will follow the consequences shown in the chart below.

- If a student's phone is visible at all during the day (a student is found using their phone, a phone is not in a Yondr Pouch, etc.)
- Physical damage to the pouch in an attempt to circumvent its intended purpose. (Ex. inappropriate markings, holes, bent pin, stripped lock, etc.)
 - (Student will be required to pay for a replacement pouch at \$26ea.)
- Storing an alternative device in the pouch and/or not putting ALL cell phones in student's possession into the pouch.
- Distributing or using a magnet to unlock pouch during school hours.
- Losing the pouch.
 - (Student will be required to pay for a replacement pouch at \$26ea.)
- Damaging or taking someone else's pouch.
- Using a phone anywhere on school grounds during school hours.
- Intentional or disruptive cell phone use



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Consequences for Unmet Expectations

The consequences for the fifth and sixth offenses include the potential for suspension. Please note that the determination of whether or not to suspend is not automatic and will depend upon the information presented at the discipline hearing. The consequences for the fifth and sixth offense are guidelines only and the principal or designee will have the authority to impose a more or less severe consequence than set forth below depending on individual circumstances. Should a student engage in more than six violations of this policy in a school year, the principal or designee will have the authority to consider additional consequences for the student up to and including long-term suspension from school.

First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense	Fourth Offense	Fifth Offense	Sixth Offense
Hold Phone until End of Day <i>Student pickup phone</i> Caregiver Contact Documentation in Aspen - Code: Cellular/Comm Device	Hold Phone until End of Day <i>Caregiver pickup phone</i> Caregiver Meeting Documentation in Aspen - Code: Cellular/Comm Device	Hold Phone during school time - one week <i>Student pickup phone</i> Caregiver Contact SEL Referral Documentation in Aspen - Code: Cellular/Comm Device	Hold phone during school time - two weeks <i>Student pickup phone</i> Caregiver Meeting Behavior Contract Documentation in Aspen Code: Cellular/Comm Device	Hold Phone until End of Day <i>Caregiver pickup phone</i> Possible 1 Day ISS or Saturday School Discipline hearing/caregiver meeting Suspension Letter Documentation in Aspen - Cellular/Comm Device	Offense moves to Aspen Code: Defiance
					Possible 1 Day OSS Discipline hearing Suspension Letter Documentation in Aspen - Code: Defiance

Yondr Emergency Protocol

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. Students are in possession of their phone, in their Yondr Pouch, for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe. In case of an emergency at home, parents or guardians can contact their child during the school day by calling their school's Main Office. If the Main Office is not available, parents/guardians may call the Guidance Office for assistance or contact school administration via ParentSquare message.

In case of a school emergency (i.e., Perimeter Lockdown), we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency protocol. All parents will receive notifications from our school-wide notification system, ParentSquare.

In case of a medical emergency, we have a school nurse on site in our Nurse's Office. Caregivers of a student who experience a medical emergency are notified by the school nurse and/or an Administrator.



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Frequently Asked Questions

What if a student forgets their pouch?

- The phone will be placed in a white sealable envelope (first/last +grade level) securely locked in the main office, and student will need to retrieve the phone at the end of the day. If this happens more than once home will be notified, and there will be a consequence following the chart above.

What happens if a student forgets to unlock their pouch before leaving the building?



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- The school has many afterschool programs and athletic events. If the building is still open, students can return to unlock their pouch. If a student needs to unlock their pouch after hours, students can go to Durfee High School's Fieldhouse security office until 7 p.m.

What if a student needs their personal device for a medical issue?

- Students who have a documented medical condition and who need a personal device for monitoring their condition will be provided with an alternate Yondr pouch which has immediate access. If a student with a medical pouch uses their cell phone for any purpose other than medical access during school hours, they will be held to an alternative progressive discipline structure which would allow them to still have medical access to their phone.

Why can't the school just implement a zero-tolerance policy and allow students to keep their phones put away?

- Students have demonstrated time and time again that they will not comply with simply putting their phones away. Enforcement of this becomes a burden of the classroom teachers when students do not comply and valuable instructional time is lost.

Will students still be able to listen to music?

- Students will be able to use headphones with cords to connect to their Chromebooks. All Bluetooth devices, including AirPods, smartwatches and other headphones, must be stored in the Yondr pouch.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and to make any necessary adjustments based on feedback from students, parents/guardians, and staff.

By implementing this policy, Fall River Public Schools aim to reduce distractions, enhance overall safety, and foster a school culture and climate conducive to learning, emotional wellbeing, and prosocial communication.