

Student Cell Phone Use

This year, the School Board will engage the school district community to help inform the creation of a student cell phone use policy.

Cell phone advisory group

A cell phone advisory group of students, parents and teachers will work collaboratively with administration to develop recommendations for cell phone use by educational level (elementary school, middle school, high school). These recommendations will be provided to the School Board so they can use them as they develop a cell phone policy in compliance with new legislation.



Legislation passed during the 2024 Minnesota State Legislative session

A school district or charter school must adopt a policy on students' possession and use of cell phones in school by March 15, 2025.

– Minn. Stat. § 121A.73

The following graphic illustrates our current practices compared with **best practice recommendations** provided by two state principal organizations:



The Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association (MESPA)



The Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)

School districts have the discretion to adjust or modify the guidelines offered.

Note: In general, all guidelines related to cell phones also apply to the use of smartwatches, AirPods, earbuds and headphones unless directly related to learning or instruction.

















Mounds View
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Learn more at mvpschools.org/cellphones.

Overview

District practices vs. recommended practices

District practices reflect the current rules regarding cell phone use. Realities of actual use in each school may vary. Consistent enforcement of rules will be key to successful implementation of a new policy.

	Elementary schools	Middle schools	High schools
Class periods			
	✗	✗	✗
	✗	✗	✗
Before/after school			
	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓
On a school bus			
	✓	✓	✓
	No recommendations provided.	No recommendations provided.	No recommendations provided.
Breakfast/Lunch			
	✗	✓	✓
	✗	✗	?*
Recess			
	✗	✓	N/A
	✗	No recommendations provided.	N/A
Hallway passing times			
	✗	✓	✓
	✗	✗	?*
Free/study periods			
	N/A	N/A	✓
	N/A	✗	✗

Exceptions could include:

- Students who use cell phones to monitor medical conditions or who need headphones for educational purposes.

* Could be allowed under a "Limited Access" approach.