

## Creating a Focused, Safe, and Engaged Learning Environment

To comply with Virginia Executive Order 33, RPS is transitioning to a cell phone-free learning environment. This policy minimizes distractions, promotes student engagement, and fosters well-being by reducing technology dependence.

### Policy Highlights

**Who:** All RPS students, all ages

**When:** From the first bell to dismissal, including lunch and transitions

**Where:** Classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, restrooms, and outdoor areas

**Prohibited Activities:**

- Phone calls, texting, or internet use.
- Games, photos, and videos.

### Guidelines By Grade

**Preschool-Grade 5:**

- Phones must be off and stored out of sight during school hours and events.

**Grade 6-12:**

- Phones allowed on buses with headphones.
- During school hours, phones must be off and stored away out of sight.
- Use is permitted after school and at events, provided it doesn't disrupt activities.

## In Case of Emergency

RPS ensures seamless communication between families and schools during emergencies:



**For Parents Contacting Students:**

- Call the school's main office for urgent messages or schedule changes.
- Use email or Class Dojo as additional communication options.



**For Students Contacting Parents:**

- Students should inform teacher or staff of the need to call home.
- Designated phones in school offices (main office, counselor, nurse, etc.) will be available for emergencies.



**For School-Wide Emergencies RPS will notify families through:**

- Automated calls or texts (via Remind)
- Email updates
- School website and social media.



**Special Considerations:**

- Exemptions apply for students with IEPs (Individualized Education Programs), 504 Plans, or Health Care Plans.

## RPS Technology Device Agreement

For RPS-issued devices (e.g., Chromebooks):

- **Responsible Use:** For educational purposes only.
- **Monitoring:** Internet activity is actively monitored.
- **Device Care:** Students/caregivers are responsible for device upkeep and may be charged a fee for devices that are damaged or need to be replaced.



## Consequences for Misuse

Tiered Discipline:

- **1st Time:** Verbal warning and documentation by school staff.
- **2nd Time:** Written warning, parental/caregiver contact, and potential for temporary confiscation of the device that may require caregiver pick up.
- **3rd Time:** Disciplinary action, such as restorative room assignment for a class period or day, or out-of-school suspension depending on the severity and frequency of violations. This may also include temporary confiscation of the device. Elementary students may participate in individual or small group sessions with the school counselor or behavior specialist.

**Severe violations:** (e.g., using devices for cheating, cyberbullying, or illegal activities) may result in immediate confiscation, suspension, law enforcement, and/or legal action.

## Benefits of a Cell Phone Free Policy



### **FOCUS FIRST**

Minimize distractions to enhance learning.



### **ENGAGE BETTER**

Foster face-to-face interaction.



### **SAFER SPACES**

Reduce cyberbullying and dependence on technology.

For full details, visit [rvaschools.net/phonefree](https://rvaschools.net/phonefree) or contact your school's main office. Together, let's create a focused, safe, and supportive learning environment!