



SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY JICJ POSSESSION/USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN SCHOOL EFFECTIVE JANUARY 6, 2025

This policy has been developed in compliance with the General Appropriations Bill, H. 5100 of 2024, Proviso 1.103 and is applicable to grades prekindergarten through twelve.

Effective January 6, 2025, students are prohibited from accessing their personal electronic devices, unless authorized for classroom use, during the school day. The purpose of this policy is to create a phone-free school environment that fosters a positive learning experience free from electronic distractions. Sumter School District is not responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of electronic communication devices brought onto school or district property or in a student’s possession while he/she is attending district or school-sponsored activities or events.

Definitions

- **Device** means any device utilized to access the internet, wi-fi, cellular telephone signals, or to capture images or video. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, tablets, and gaming devices.
- **Device Accessories** include any wired or wireless accessory or wearable technology that connects to a device and any other accessory commonly used in conjunction with a personal electronic device.
- **School day** is the period of time that a student is present on the school campus from their arrival (*i.e.*, tardy bell) until afternoon dismissal at the end of the instructional day. This policy may also apply to field trips.
- **Access** is viewing, holding, wearing, or otherwise using a device for the purpose of communication, internet access, gaming, recording, or any other function commonly associated with devices. During the school day, accessories and devices should be powered off and stored in the student’s backpack.

Exceptions granted for medical necessity, authorized for classroom use, or other authorized reasons should be in writing **by a physician** and are not considered violations of this definition.

Policy Enforcement

In exchange for the privilege of bringing electronic communication devices into the educational environment, when warranted, each student and his/her parent/legal guardian agrees to voluntarily forfeit the electronic communication device until it is picked up by a parent/legal guardian if the student is found to be in violation of this policy. If a student violates the rules during the school day, administrative actions will adhere to Behavior Code 390 - Unauthorized Use of Electronic Devices. Students who violate this policy are subject to the following consequences:

School Level	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense	Fourth Offense and Subsequent Offenses
High	Parent Contact and ISS (3-5)	Parent Conference and Intervention Plan and OSS (1-5)	Parent Conference and OSS (5) and Pre Expulsion Notification	Parent Conference and Suspension up to Ten Days and Refer for Disciplinary Transfer or Referral to Hearing Officer
Middle	Parent Contact and ISS (1-3)	Parent Conference and Intervention Plan and OSS (1-3)	Parent Conference and OSS (3-5) and Pre Expulsion Notification	Parent Conference and Suspension up to Ten Days and Refer for Disciplinary Transfer or Referral to Hearing Officer
Elementary	Parent Contact	Parent Conference and School Counselor Referral	Parent Conference and Intervention Plan and ISS (1-3)	Parent Conference and OSS (3-5)