

## **POLICY JICJ PROHIBITION OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

*Issued 12/24*

To provide a positive learning experience free from electronic distractions students are prohibited from using personal electronic devices during the school day.

### **Definitions:**

“Personal electronic device,” hereinafter referred to as “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.

“Personal Electronic Device accessories,” hereinafter referred to as “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 defined as bell to bell. From the morning tardy bell until afternoon dismissal, which is the conclusion of the instructional day, electronic communication devices will be prohibited. This policy does not apply to school buses, field trips, and athletic events.

“Access” is defined as 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, devices should be silenced and stored away as directed by the school. Exceptions granted for medical necessity, authorized for classroom use, or other authorized reasons should be in writing and are not considered violations of this definition.

“Authorized for Classroom Use” is defined as the use of a personal electronic device that is explicitly approved by the District Superintendent or his/her designee in writing. The approval must include alignment with a standards-aligned educational objective that cannot be reasonably achieved using district-owned devices. Students must be provided with clear instructions on the appropriate use of devices and ensure that their use aligns with the approved educational objectives. The District Superintendent or his/her designee may revoke approval at any time if it is determined that their use does not meet the intended educational objectives or is causing disruptions.

### **Implementation:**

During the school day, students are prohibited from accessing their personal electronic devices, unless authorized for classroom use. Students may not wear or access device accessories during the school day. Students must store their devices and device accessories in lockers, backpacks, or otherwise as directed by the school.

If explicitly required by a student's IEP, Medical Plan, 504 Plan, or Multilingual Learners Individual Language Acquisition Plan (ILAP) the student shall be allowed to access their personal electronic device for medically or educationally necessary purposes described and required for administration of the IEP, Medical Plan, 504 Plan, and the Multilingual Learners Individual Language Acquisition Plan (ILAP).

A student who is a member of a volunteer firefighting organization or emergency organization may be authorized to carry a device with written permission from the District Superintendent or his/her designee.

**Enforcement:**

If a student violates the preceding rules during the school day, the student will be subject to progressive consequences in the Student Code of Conduct.

**Responsibility/Liability:**

Any student who chooses to bring a wireless electronic device as described shall do so at the student's own risk and shall be personally responsible for the security of the device. Neither the school personnel nor the district will assume any responsibility or liability for loss, theft, damage, or vandalism to such devices as described above brought onto school property or the unauthorized use of any such device.

Cf. JICDA

Adopted 12/10/24

**Legal References:**

S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

Section 59-63-280 - Requires board to adopt a policy on student use of electronic devices.

General Appropriations Bill, H. 5100 of 2024

Proviso 1.103 (SDE: Anti-Bullying/School Safety)