

FAQ: Policy on Personal Electronic Devices During the School Day

What is the new policy?

The Charleston County School District (CCSD) Board of Trustees has approved [Policy JICJ, "Prohibition of Personal Electronic Devices During the School Day."](#) Beginning January 6, 2025, students from kindergarten through 12th grade must keep personal electronic devices turned off and stored during school hours unless authorized for specific purposes.

Why is this policy being implemented?

This policy is designed to create a device-free environment to reduce distractions, improve focus, and support meaningful engagement in the classroom. It aligns with the General Appropriations Bill, H. 5100 of 2024, Proviso 1.103, and the district's commitment to fostering academic success and personal development.

Which devices are included?

The policy applies to cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, tablets, and any other personal electronic devices or accessories used for internet access, communication, or gaming.

What does "school day" mean?

The school day includes the time students are on campus from arrival (e.g., tardy bell) until dismissal, as well as during school-sponsored events like field trips.

How will devices be stored during the school day?

Students must power off their devices and store them as defined by the student's administration at the school.

Are there any exceptions?

Yes, exceptions include:

- Use approved for educational purposes by the teacher and school administration.
- Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), medical plan, or Section 504 plan that explicitly requires device access.
- Emergency situations or when authorized by school administration.

How will the policy be enforced?

Students who violate the policy will face progressive consequences as outlined in the [CCSD Student Code of Conduct \(page 6\)](#). Enforcement will be consistent across schools to ensure fairness and effectiveness.

How can parents contact their children during the school day?

Parents and guardians may reach their children during the school day for urgent or emergent issues by contacting the school's front office. Please understand that students will not be pulled from class for general messages, but messages will be delivered promptly. We also suggest using a student's CCSD email as an alternative way to communicate with your child if needed (high school only).

Where can I find the full policy?

The full text of Policy JICJ can be accessed at [Policy JICJ: Prohibition of Personal Electronic Devices During the School Day](#).

Who can I contact for more information?

For questions or concerns, please contact your school's administration or the district office.