

3320 Cell Phones, Smart Phones, Pagers and Other Electrotonic Signaling Devices Policy

Approved: February 16, 2022

Amended: June 22, 2023, February 28, 2024, **June 26, 2024**

The Governing Board of Altus Schools Southern California corporation hereby adopts this Cell Phones, Smartphones, Pagers & Other Electronic Signaling Devices Policy to apply to Altus Schools East County, Altus Schools North County, Altus Schools South Bay, Audeo Charter School II, Audeo Valley Charter School, and Mirus Secondary School, hereafter collectively referred to as (“Charter School”). The Board of Directors recognizes the potential for cell phones, smartphones, pagers, and electronic signaling devices (hereinafter collectively referred to as “private devices”) to disrupt the learning environment of the Charter School, and adopts this Policy to permit students to possess, but not use private devices while on site or at the resource center, at school-sponsored activities, or under the supervision of Charter School employees, except as otherwise provided in this Policy. Students who possess any private devices must always keep them turned off and out of view while on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities and functions. Charter School teachers, administrators, and staff will confiscate any private devices used by a student in violation of this Policy.

All students are required to adhere to the following guidelines regarding private devices:

Private devices may be used:

- Off school site before or after school.
- Before or after any Charter School sponsored activity occurring before or after the school’s instructional day.
- In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
- When a teacher or administrator of the Charter School grants permission to a student to possess or use a private device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator.
- When a licensed physician and surgeon determines that the possession or use of a private device is necessary for the health or well-being of the student.
- When the possession or use of a private device is required in a student’s individualized education program (“IEP”).

Private devices shall be turned off and shall not be used:

- While at the resource center, including workshops, seminars, tutoring and any other school activity, which takes place during the scheduled instructional day on or off site.
- During events sponsored by the Charter School.
- On field trips or excursions sponsored by the Charter School.

Possession of private devices is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this Policy. All Charter School employees shall remove any private device from the possession of a student found to be violating this Policy. If a private device is heard ringing, beeping, or buzzing from inside a jacket, purse, backpack, or other similar article, whether within the immediate presence of the student or not, a Charter School employee may remove the private device and confiscate the private device. Parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up any confiscated private devices at the end of the instructional time at the resource center or at the conclusion of a Charter School sponsored activity.

In addition to this Policy, all other applicable Charter School student discipline policies and rules shall apply to any student who fails to comply with the requirements of this Policy.

Students who possess any private device(s) shall assume sole responsibility for the maintenance and care of any such private device(s) in accordance with this Policy. At no time shall the Charter School be responsible for preventing theft, loss or damage to any private devices brought onto campus or at Charter School sponsored activities.