

Executive Department
State of Idaho



State Capitol
Boise

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF IDAHO
BOISE**

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2024-11

PHONE FREE LEARNING ACT

WHEREAS, it is our duty as parents, educators, and elected leaders to create the best school environment possible where our children can thrive and learn; and

WHEREAS, in our day and age, technology and technological devices are integrated into how we learn, teach, and operate day to day; and

WHEREAS, we are seeing the dangers of social media and personal technological devices in our classrooms when kids are more concerned about what is happening on their cell phones than what they are learning in class; and

WHEREAS, I join many leaders, including the Superintendent of Public Instruction and my legislative partners in recognizing cell phone use is happening in schools and that cell phones and social media present negative effects on student mental health, development, and learning; and

WHEREAS, I look forward to working with my fellow legislators in the 2025 legislative session to bring forward a codified policy on cell phones in schools; and

WHEREAS, it is not just our job but our moral obligation to safeguard our children's future and ensure that every student in Idaho's public school system has a chance to achieve the American Dream.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brad Little, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho, do hereby order the following:

Encouragement of all schools to have a comprehensive, district wide policy in place on cell phone restriction in schools by the end of the 2024-2025 school year. These policies should follow the policy guidance as issued by the State Department of Education.

With the adoption of a policy on cell phone use in schools, I am authorizing the State Board of Education to award \$5,000 one-time funds to any district that adopts a district wide policy on cell phone use that follows the State Department of Education's policy guidance. The money will be distributed by the State Department of Education and must be used in priority order, as established by the State Department of Education.

Any school district that has already adopted a cell phone use policy that follows the State Department of Education's guidance can apply to receive reimbursement, up to \$5,000, for actual costs incurred implementing the policy.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 31st day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

A large, stylized blue ink signature of Brad Little.

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

A blue ink signature of Phil McGrane.

PHIL MCGRANE
SECRETARY OF STATE



Book	Policy Manual
Section	8000 - Students
Title	8506 - Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices
Code	8500 - Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
Status	Active
Adopted	June 18, 1996
Last Revised	June 21, 2022
Prior Revised Dates	4/16/2019; 7/20/2021

The use of personal electronic devices during instructional time is strictly prohibited in all district schools, unless specifically authorized by the student's teacher or principal. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, tablets, e-readers, laptops, or other related electronic devices.

Use of personal electronic devices is a privilege and not a right. Students are required to adhere to requirements outlined in this policy.

The building principal is responsible for determining when personal electronic devices may be used, such as before or after school, passing time, lunch or recess.

Any violation of this policy, or use of a personal electronic device which involves illegal activity, disruption of the educational process or climate of the school, causing harm to another individual, bullying, intimidation, threats, sexting, academic dishonesty, violating another individual's privacy, or any other prohibited activity while at school will result in disciplinary action and the loss of the device during school hours. Devices may be turned over to law enforcement when appropriate. Devices will not be returned to the student until a conference is held with the parent/guardian. Such conference may be held over the phone when necessary.

The use of cameras or audio recording on any type of electronic device is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, and restrooms. Use of cameras or audio recordings are also prohibited in classrooms, unless specifically authorized by the student's teacher. When the use of a camera or audio recording is authorized, students are required to obtain permission before taking a photograph, video or audio recording of any individual, and are required to obtain the individual's permission prior to posting such content to any internet or social media site or app.

Teachers have discretion to allow students to use their personal devices for instructional purposes. When students use a personal device for instructional purposes they shall adhere to the following:

- Ensure that effective and updated antivirus protection is installed
- Only connect to the internet using the district's network or wifi
- Students shall not bypass internet content filtering by using other wifi or data networks
- Ensure the device is functioning properly
- Ensure the device is fully charged prior to any instructional use
- Ensure the device will not cause disruption or harm to the district's network or other student devices.
- Students shall be responsible for password protecting their personal devices.

Students are responsible for safeguarding all personal devices. The district shall not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of personal devices. District personnel are not responsible for providing technical support for personal devices.

The requirements outlined in this policy shall not apply if they conflict with a student's 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Cell phone policy currently in place this year:

Hawthorne MS

- no cell phones at any time during the school day.
- If the cell phone comes out in class, the teacher is to hold onto it until the end of class.
- If it becomes a repeat offense it is brought to the office until the end of the day.
 - There is some inconsistency from teacher to teacher in how the policy is addressed in their classroom. We've also had the occasional parent who has not supported us in upholding our policy.

Franklin MS

- zero-use cellphone policy from bell-to-bell.
- No phones during class, passing time, lunch break, or outside.
- Phones are confiscated, held in the main office, and parents are called if a phone is seen out or in use.
 - The only exception is when a teacher has explicit lesson plans for a day that include cellphone use, for example, our advanced math class will occasionally incorporate their use into a lesson.
 - We prefer learners to leave their cell phones in their lockers, but many keep them on their person in pencil bags or pockets. If we do not see them, we do not discipline for having them on their person.
 - We do find smart watches to be just as much of a distraction and cell phones.

Irving MS

- We require cell phones to be out of use from 8:45am-3:35pm.
- Students cannot take their phones out unless they have specific permission.
 - This permission allows them to use their phone in the office.

Alameda MS

Cell Phones

- No electronic devices and usage of any kind from 8:40 AM - 3:35 PM
- Cell phones will be confiscated and turned into the office

1st Offense	WARNING - You may pick up your phone in the front office at 3:35 PM
2nd Offense	Parent will pick up your cell phone in the front office
3rd Offense	Parent meeting and behavior contract
4th Offense	Administrative disciplinary action and/or DDRC

- All of our cell phone violations are logged in IC by our secretary. When a student has their phone confiscated for the second time, she emails me, and I call home and ask a parent to pick it up before 4:00. I've had really great responses with supportive parents.
- If a phone is taken away for a third time, they turn their phone in at the front office every day. We've had a lot of success with this. Right now, we have 4 students that turn in their phone every day and pick it up after the bell.

Century HS

- Century follows the district policy but like everything else some teachers are not consistent and that then causes frustration for the followers and for the learners because then they do not get a consistent message.

Highland HS

- Highland High School Administration requires teachers to have a cell phone use plan in place as part of their classroom management strategy.
- The plan in place is primarily up to the teacher but must include no less than the following:
 - Clear expectations communicated to students of when they are not allowed to use a cell phone during class time.
 - Clear directions of what students should do with their cell phone and where they put it when it is not in use. It is possible to have a designated and safe location for this, but also a reminder that we cannot require students to hand them in, if it is put away, even in their pocket or bag, that is sufficient.
 - We do not want teachers to fight with students over this, if students refuse to get off their cell phone or put it away, notify administration and they will follow up with appropriate discipline if required.
 - Clear expectations communicated to students of when they are allowed to use a cell phone during class time.
 - Clear instruction of what is considered appropriate and expected use of a cell phone when given permission to use it.

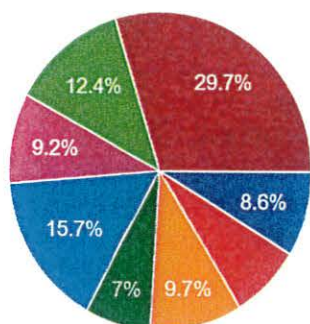
Pocatello HS

- No cell phone bell to bell.
- teachers provide a cell phone caddy in the classroom and students are expected to put their cell phones in the caddy at the beginning of the class period and can retrieve them at the bell.
 - If a student says they don't have a cell phone with them, then teacher's take them for their word. The ultimate goal is for cell phones to be out of sight, out of mind.
- If a cell phone comes out, then the student takes it to the office. The student then spends the rest of the class period in detention for interrupting the learning process after they've brought their phone to the office.
 - An admin calls home and requests a parent to come get the phone on their own time.
- The majority of parents have been SO supportive and come pick it up from the office when they have time. We have had a couple that will say we cannot keep it and it needs to be returned to the student after school. We have chosen not to fight this battle and will give it to the student after school.
- Overall our teachers report less interruptions in class, less battles, and more engagement.

PCSD 25 Cell Phone Policy Survey 196 Responses

Secondary Schools:

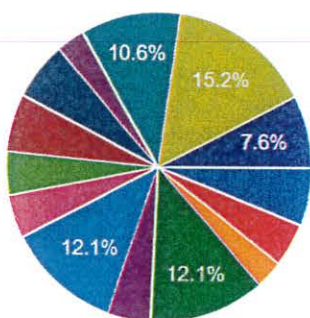
185 responses



- Alameda Middle School
- Franklin Middle School
- Hawthorne Middle School
- Irving Middle School
- Kinport
- Century High School
- Highland High School
- Pocatello High School
- Other

Elementary Schools:

66 responses

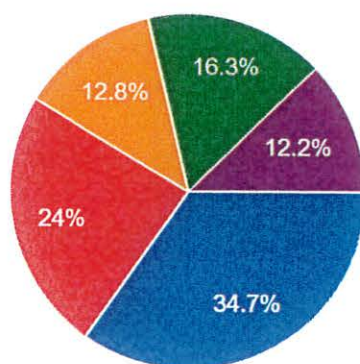


- Chubbuck Elementary
- Edahow Elementary
- Ellis Elementary
- Gate City Elementary
- Greenacres Elementary
- Indian Hills Elementary
- Jefferson Elementary
- Lewis & Clark Elementary

1/2

Enforcement of the Policy: How easy is it to enforce the current cell phone policy in your classroom?

196 responses



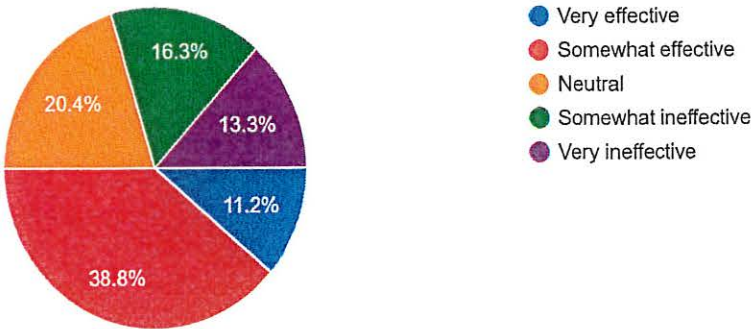
- Very easy
- Somewhat easy
- Neutral
- Somewhat difficult
- Very Difficult

General Opinion on Current PCSD 25 Policy:

How effective do you think the current PCSD 25 cell phone policy is in promoting a focused learning environment?

General Opinion on Current PCSD 25 Policy: How effective do you think the current PCSD 25 cell phone policy is in promoting a focused learning environment?

196 responses



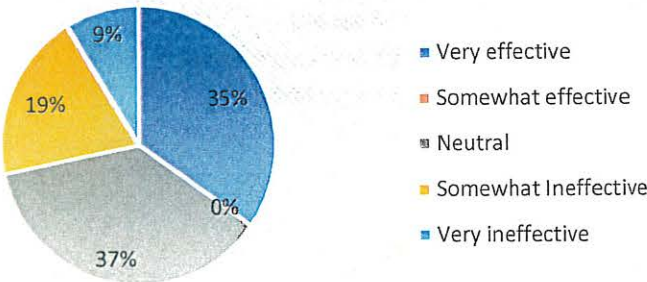
Secondary Teachers/Staff

General Opinion on Current PCSD 25 Policy



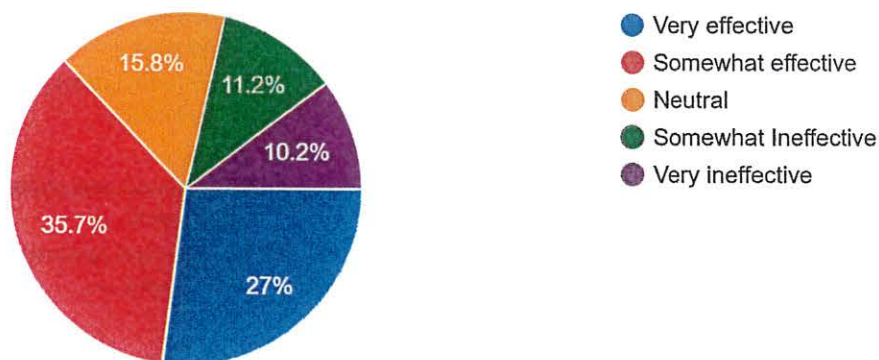
Elementary Teacher/Staff

General Opinion on Current PCSD 25 Policy

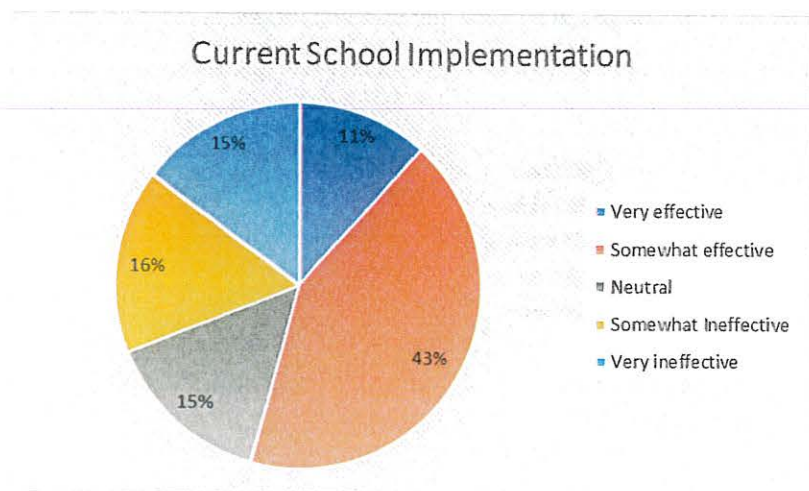


Current School Implementation: In comparison to the PCSD 25 board policy, my school's implementation of the policy is:

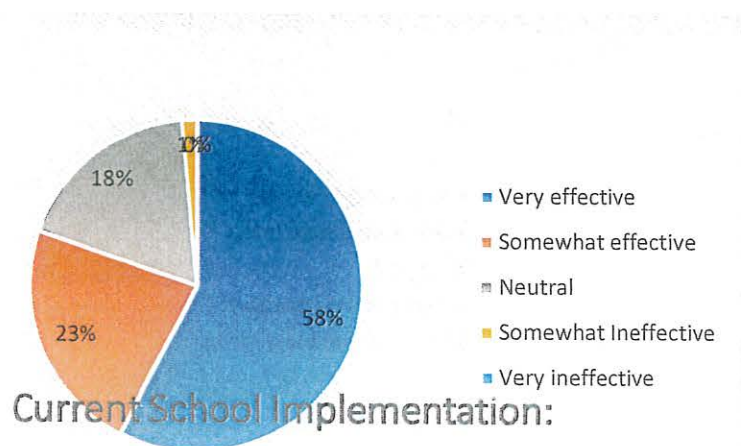
196 responses



Secondary Teachers/Staff

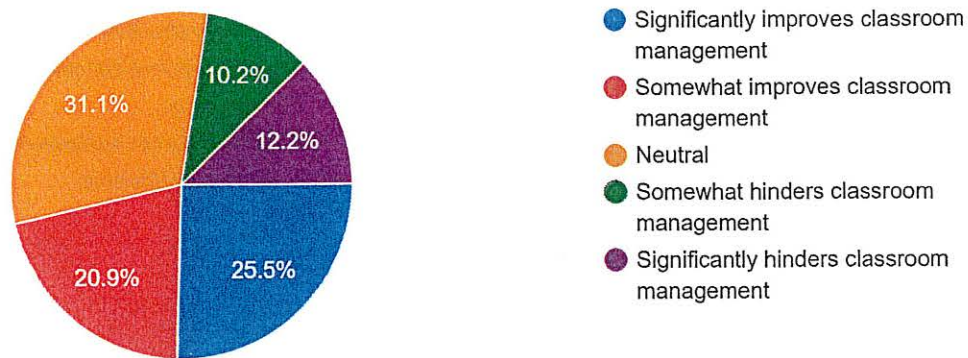


Elementary Teachers/Staff



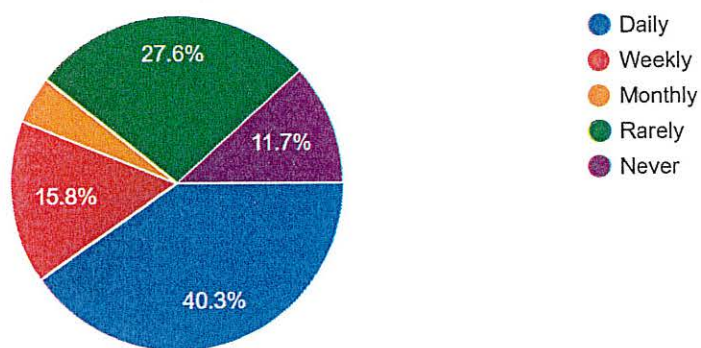
Impact on Classroom Management: How does the current cell phone policy impact your ability to manage your classroom?

196 responses



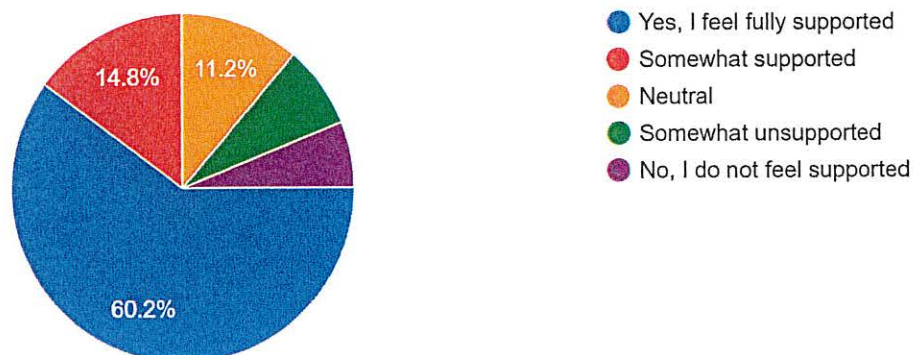
Frequency of Issues: How often do you encounter disruptions caused by cell phones in your classroom?

196 responses



Support and Resources: Do you feel adequately supported by the administration to enforce the current policy?

196 responses



Impact of Cell Phones on Students and the Classroom

Rationale and Research

The implementation of new, school-wide guidelines and expectations for cell phone usage at ETHS aims to address various concerns identified by the Cell Phone Working Group, including:

	Issue	Impact
Distraction	Students using cell phones during class can be easily distracted, diverting their attention away from the lesson, teacher, or educational materials.	Reduced focus and engagement in the learning process, potentially leading to lower academic performance.
Loss of Learning Time	Teachers spend instructional time dealing with cell phone-related disruptions.	Frequent disruptions to classroom instruction and a loss of valuable instructional time.
Academic Integrity	Students may use their phones to cheat on exams, quizzes, or assignments, compromising the integrity of assessments.	Undermines fair evaluation, academic dishonesty, and hinders the development of critical thinking skills.
Cyberbullying	Cell phones can be a platform for cyberbullying, with students using social media or messaging apps to harass or intimidate their peers.	Negative emotional and psychological effects on students, and a need for intervention.
Privacy Concerns	Recording or taking unauthorized photos of classmates, teachers, or classroom activities can raise privacy concerns.	Violation of privacy, potential for misuse of recorded content, and discomfort among students and teachers.
Safety Concerns	Student cell phone usage in vocational classes may compromise their safety or the safety of their peers.	Increased risk of accidents, injuries, or mishandling of materials or machinery.
Harm to Teacher-Student Relationships	Enforcement of cell phone policies by teachers can strain relationships with students and create an adversarial atmosphere.	Reduced opportunities for mentorship, guidance, and a less supportive learning environment.
Social Isolation	Excessive use of cell phones during social situations, including classroom discussions, may hinder face-to-face interaction and communication skills.	Impaired social skills, reduced ability to engage in meaningful conversations, reduced social interaction, and potential for increased social isolation.
Health & Mental Health Concerns	Excessive cell phone use can contribute to physical and mental health issues which affect a student's overall wellbeing.	Increased risk for various health concerns, such as anxiety, disrupted sleep patterns, and increased stress.

Suggested Reading and Listening

This curated list contains articles, podcasts, and other resources that discuss the negative impact of cell phones on students in academic settings. By engaging these resources, staff can gain insights into the potential drawbacks of unrestricted cell phone access at school and make informed decisions about implementing practices to address these challenges.

How Strengthening Enforcement of Cell Phone Policies Benefit Students

Title	Publisher	Type
<u>"As OPRF students park phones during class, focus sharpens"</u>	<i>Wednesday Journal</i>	Article
<u>"Students Say their New York School's Cellphone Ban Helped Improve their Mental Health"</u>	CBS News	Article/Video
<u>"Cellphone Bans Can Ease Student Stress and Anxiety, Educators Say"</u>	EducationWeek	Article
<u>"Do Cellphone Bans Work? Educators Share Their Experiences"</u>	EducationWeek	Article
<u>"There's a Cell Phone in Your Student's Head"</u>	Edutopia	YouTube Video

The Negative Impact of Cell Phones on Student Achievement

Title	Publisher	Type
<u>"Phones are Distracting Students in Class."</u>	NBC News	Article
<u>"Why Schools Should Ban Cell Phones in the Classroom—and Why Parents Have to Help"</u>	Boston University	Article
<u>"Cellphones in Classrooms Contribute to Failing Grades: Study"</u>	ABC News	Article
<u>"End the Phone-Based Childhood Now"</u>	<i>The Atlantic</i>	Article
<u>"Cellphone Distraction in the Classroom Can Lead to Lower Grades, Rutgers Study Finds"</u>	Rutgers University	Article
<u>"Help! I Can't Put Down My Phone"</u>	Scholastic	PDF
<u>"There's a Cell Phone in Your Student's Head"</u>	Edutopia	YouTube Video
<u>"Smartphones Are Lowering Students Grades"</u>	Rutgers University	Article
<u>"Electronics in the Classroom Lead to Lower Test Scores"</u>	U.S. News & World Report	Article
<u>"Weighing the Costs and Benefits of Cellphones in Schools"</u>	Harvard University	Article

<u>Multitasking with Phones: Bad for Learning</u>	EducationWeek	Article
<u>"Cellphones in School: What to Know"</u>	U.S. News	Article
<u>"Brain Drain: The Mere Presence of One's Own Smartphone Reduces Available Cognitive Capacity"</u>	The University of Chicago Press Journals	Study
<u>"Text Message Interruptions"</u>	California State University	Study
<u>"Technology, Distraction, and Student Performance"</u>	Centre for Economic Performance	Study
<u>"The Mere Presence of a Cell Phone May Be Distracting: Implications for Attention and Task Performance"</u>	American Psychological Association	Study
<u>"The Attentional Cost of Receiving a Cell Phone Notification"</u>	National Library of Medicine	Study
<u>"The Use and Abuse of Cell Phones and Text Messaging in the Classroom"</u>	College Teaching	Study
<u>"UN Warns of Risk of Having Smartphones in School"</u>	BBC	Article

The Harmful Impact of Cell Phones on Student Mental Health

Title	Publisher	Type
<u>"Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?"</u>	The Atlantic	Article
<u>"What Happens to Your Brain When You Mindlessly Scroll?"</u>	AsapSCIENCE	YouTube Video
<u>"Dopamine, Smartphones, & You: A Battle for Your Time"</u>	Harvard Medical School	Article
<u>"A Dark Consensus About Screens and Kids Begins to Emerge in Silicon Valley"</u>	The New York Times	Article
<u>"There's a Cell Phone in Your Student's Head"</u>	Edutopia	YouTube Video
<u>"The Binge Breaker"</u>	The Atlantic	Article
<u>"On the Phone, Alone"</u>	The New York Times	Article
<u>"This Is Our Chance to Pull Teenagers Out of the Smartphone Trap"</u>	The New York Times	Article

<u>"The Relationship Between Cellphone Usage on the Physical and Mental Wellbeing of University Students"</u>	National Library of Medicine	Study
<u>"Smartphones, Social Media Use, and Youth Mental Health"</u>	National Library of Medicine	Study
<u>"Technology, Distraction, and Student Performance"</u>	Centre for Economic Performance	Study
<u>"Teen Girls and Their Moms Get Candid about Phones and Social Media"</u>	NPR	Article/Audio

How Cellphones Affect Students' Communication Skills

Title	Publisher	Type
<u>"How Cellphones Affect Communication Skills"</u>	Grand Canyon University	Article
<u>"Why Principals Worry About How Mobile Devices Affect Students' Social Skills"</u>	EducationWeek	Article
<u>"Get Phones Out of Schools Now"</u>	<i>The Atlantic</i>	Article

Jefferson School District

STUDENTS 3265

Student-Owned Electronic Communications Devices

Purpose:

The Jefferson School District #251 is committed to creating an educational environment that supports mental health, academic success, and character development. Our goal is to foster a school culture where students are fully present, free from distractions, and deeply engaged in their learning. This policy aligns with our district's mission to provide each student with a high-quality education.

Policy Overview:

To maintain a focused and distraction-free learning environment, the use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices is prohibited during school hours for all students. Unless under exceptional circumstances involving immediate physical danger. Usage during instructional hours is prohibited.

Personal Electronic Communication Device:

A personal electronic communication device includes but is not limited to cell phones, smart watches, ear buds or other related devices. When used appropriately and in accordance with the electronic use policy laptop computers are permissible when being used for academic purposes.

School Day:

The school day is defined as the official start time to the official end time including class periods, passing periods, lunch periods, recess and assemblies.

During the School Day:

Students must keep their devices turned off out of sight and not on their person while on school campuses or at school activities for the duration of the school day. Personal Electronic devices may be stored in a backpack, locker, or a designated spot in the classroom. The only exception is that high school students may use their devices during their lunch periods at school.

Access to the devices is a privilege and not a right. Each student will be required to follow the Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks Policy and the Internet Access Conduct Agreement.

Students must connect to the internet through the district's filtered network, regardless of using personal or District provided device. Technical assistance or software will not be provided for student-owned devices.

Use of phones in bathrooms, locker rooms, or any private areas is strictly prohibited at any school level.

Prior consent is required before taking photographs or videos of individuals, and further authorization is necessary before posting on social media or other online platforms. Any student found using electronic devices to facilitate cheating on assessments, projects, or assignments will face disciplinary action, including confiscation of the device until a parental meeting is conducted.

Students are accountable for the security of their devices on campus. The District disclaims liability for loss, theft, damages, or destruction of student owned devices on school property. Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning appropriate use of telecommunication or other electronic devices.

Violations of this policy may lead to disciplinary measures, such as forfeiting device privileges on school grounds, detention, suspension, or expulsion and confiscation of the device.

The regulations on electronic communication devices contained in this policy do not supersede the rights of special education or Section 504 students or students with an Individualized Education Plan when these plans conflict with the uses outlined provisions.

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Revised on: August 16, 2017

Revised on: September 5, 2024

STUDENTS 3265P

Purpose:

The Jefferson School District #251 is committed to creating an educational environment that supports mental health, academic success, and character development. Our goal is to foster a school culture where students are fully present, free from distractions, and deeply engaged in their learning. This policy aligns with our district's mission to provide each student with a high-quality education.

Expectation for:

Students:

- Follow the cell phone policy by keeping phones powered off and out of sight and not on their person during school hours. Devices may be stored in a backpack, locker or designated spot in the classroom.
- Respect the rules regarding phone usage and understand the purpose behind them.
- Personal earbuds and headphones are prohibited.

Staff:

- Supervise students to ensure cell phones are not visible during school hours.
- Set a positive example by demonstrating appropriate phone usage.
- Consistently enforce the policy, collaborating with families when issues arise.
- Substituting instructional activities with personal communication devices is prohibited.

Including allowing them to be used as a reward or during "free-time"

- Confiscated devices will be turned into the school office as soon as possible and no later than the end of the school day in which the device is confiscated.

Administration:

- Support staff in enforcing the policy consistently across the school.
- Handle violations in accordance with the outlined procedures, including communicating with parents/guardians when necessary.
- Review the policy to ensure its effectiveness and adjust as needed based on feedback from the school community.
- Implement progressive discipline if policy violations persist.

Parents/Guardians:

- Contact the school's main office for urgent communication with their child, with the office

facilitating communication with the classroom teacher.

School District Progressive Discipline Procedure for Electronic Communication Device Policy

Violations

Purpose:

Establish a fair and consistent process for addressing breaches of the school district's electronic communications device policy, promoting responsible cell phone use for an optimal learning environment.

First Violation: Verbal Warning and Device Confiscation

The student receives a verbal warning from staff and the device is confiscated and stored in the main office, retrievable by the student or parent. The parent or guardian will be contacted by school administration if needed.

Second Violation: Continued Confiscation and Parent Involvement

The device is confiscated and stored in the main office, retrievable solely by the parent.

Subsequent offenses:

The phone will be confiscated and returned only to a parent or guardian. A meeting with the student, parent/guardian, and an administrator will be scheduled.

Extensions for Students with IEPs, 504 Plans and Health Plans:

Students with IEPs, 504 plans, or Health Plans that necessitate the use of electronic devices as part of their accommodation will be allowed to use their devices in accordance with their plan. These students will work with school administrators to establish a clear plan for device usage that supports their learning and well-being.

Additional Guidelines:

Noncompliance: Failure to surrender the device upon request is considered insubordination, warranting immediate intervention by school administration.

Emergency Situations:

If an emergency occurs and classrooms are locked down, requiring the use of a cell phone will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with parents/guardians and school personnel.

Policy History

Adopted on: September 5, 2024

Student-Owned Electronic Communication Devices Policy

Although the American Falls School District #381 recognizes the importance of technology in the educational setting, electronic communication devices, like cell phones, pose a significant distraction to the learning environment and can create considerable concerns. A growing body of evidence suggests that student access to cell phones and other electronic communication devices is detrimental to students' emotional well-being, safety, and academic growth.

To support the District's mission of providing a quality education necessary for students to be successful in life, the use of personal electronic communication devices at school is prohibited during the school day, unless otherwise noted in this policy. This policy will be strictly and fairly enforced by all district personnel.

Definitions

Device: All personal electronic communication devices including but not limited to the following personal devices and accessories used for communication and entertainment: cellphones, smartphones, smartwatches, earbuds, headphones, video recording devices, personal digital assistants (PDA), iPods, iPads, laptop computers, tablet computers, other wearable electronics, and other similar electronic devices. This does not include district-issued devices or devices approved by the administration for educational use or devices needed to support students with disabilities or health monitoring when being used for those specific purposes.

School Day: From the official start time, which will be defined at the building level, to the end of the day at school dismissal, including class periods, passing periods, free periods, lunch periods, recess, and assemblies. For activities that take place off-campus when students are normally in school, such as field trips, trip-specific personal electronic device regulations will be established by the trip facilitator.

Prohibition of Devices

Students must keep their devices completely silenced (not making notifications, alerts, or vibrations), out of sight, and not on their person (e.g. in their pocket) while on school campuses or at school activities for the duration of the school day. The only exception is that high school students may use their devices during their lunch periods at school. Students may keep devices in a backpack, bag, locker, etc. but the device must not be seen or heard. This prohibition does not extend to district-issued devices in educational settings. Students may use district-issued devices (e.g. Chromebooks) or pre-approved personal devices, such as laptops or headphones, for education purposes during the school day.

Disciplinary Procedures

If a student's device is visible, stored on their person (e.g. in their pocket), or is found to make a notification during the school day, the device will be confiscated by a District employee and may be retrieved from the school's front office at the end of the school day by the student on the first offense. For any following offenses, the student's parent/guardian may pick up the device from the front office. Administrators may utilize Policy 3340 and Procedure 3340P Corrective Action and Discipline to address repeat offenders.

Parent/Guardian Communication with Students

Parents/guardians should not expect to communicate with their children using personal communication devices during the school day. Parents who need to communicate with their child in the case of an emergency, should call the front office and communicate with the school personnel about the nature of the emergency. As appropriate, this will then be communicated to the student impacted by the emergency. If necessary, students may request permission from a teacher, front office staff member, or other District employee to utilize a phone under the direction of a staff member to call parents/guardians during the school day.

Exceptions

The administration may grant exceptions for certain situations, e.g. 504 or an IEP or other similar situations.

Administrative Regulation 0502.80-AR(1): Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Devices - - AR(01)

Status: ADOPTED

| Last Revised Date: 05/13/2024 **| Last Reviewed Date:** 05/13/2024

To firmly uphold the Board's aim of minimizing disruptions within the educational environment, this Administrative Regulation is enacted to enforce the Board's directives regarding personal cell phones and other electronic devices.

Purpose: This Administrative Regulation aims to establish robust guidelines for implementing policy 502.80 – Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Devices. It strictly prohibits the use of cell phones and personal electronic devices during instructional periods unless explicitly authorized and mandates that students not have cell phones or other personal electronic devices on their person to minimize distractions and cultivate an undistracted learning atmosphere.

Scope: This regulation is applicable to all students within the West Ada School District.

Implementation Guidelines; Cell phones and other personal electronic devices may not be kept on a student's person during instructional periods. Each school or classroom, as determined by the building administrator, must designate an area for students to deposit their electronic devices prior to the start of class, facilitating easy monitoring by teachers. This area may include student lockers, a basket, phone vault, or other conspicuous and clearly communicated "Designated Storage Area".

Devices must be powered off before being placed in the Designated Storage Area. This practice promotes an environment conducive to academic engagement and reduces disruptions. Teachers may opt to designate a responsible student or establish a rotation system for collecting devices, ensuring a smooth and timely process while fostering a sense of accountability among students for their belongings.

Smartwatches and other wearables are specifically exempted from the requirement to be placed in a "Designated Storage Area", but must be powered down during instructional time. Any use of or distractions created as a result of powered wearable devices will be subject to disciplinary action.

Exceptions: Occasionally, teachers may permit the limited use of electronic devices strictly for educational purposes during class/instructional time, provided that clear guidelines are communicated to students. In cases of emergency necessitating immediate access to electronic devices, the teacher may address them on a case-by-case basis, exercising discretion. It's important to note that this Administrative Regulation does not pertain to school-issued tablets or laptops, nor to equipment specified in an individual student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), English Learning Plan (ELP), 504 Plan, Health Services Plan, or any other health accommodations.

Device Retrieval: Students may retrieve their electronic devices at the conclusion of the class/period, but only at the direction of the teacher. Teachers are responsible for conducting periodic checks to ensure that all devices are returned and properly accounted for.

Enforcement: West Ada personnel are mandated to rigorously enforce this policy and Administrative Regulation within their classrooms. Repeated or egregious violations will be promptly escalated to the building's administration for further action using the discipline matrix.

Loss/Damage: West Ada School District shall not be held liable for the theft or loss of electronic devices brought onto school premises.

Communication with Parents and Guardians: It is imperative to inform parents and guardians about the electronic device policy and its accompanying Administrative Regulation through various channels such as newsletters, school websites, student handbooks, and other communication platforms. A designated point of contact at each school site must be readily available for parents or guardians to address any inquiries or concerns they may have regarding the policy.

This Administrative Regulation is effective for the commencement of the 2024-2025 school year and supersedes any previous regulations regarding electronic device management, either District or school-wide.

Administrative Regulation 0502.80-AR(1): Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Devices - - AR(01)

Status: ADOPTED

| Last Revised Date: 05/13/2024 | Last Reviewed Date: 05/13/2024

To firmly uphold the Board's aim of minimizing disruptions within the educational environment, this Administrative Regulation is enacted to enforce the Board's directives regarding personal cell phones and other electronic devices.

Purpose: This Administrative Regulation aims to establish robust guidelines for implementing policy 502.80 - Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Devices. It strictly prohibits the use of cell phones and personal electronic devices during instructional periods unless explicitly authorized and mandates that students not have cell phones or other personal electronic devices on their person to minimize distractions and cultivate an undistracted learning atmosphere.

Scope: This regulation is applicable to all students within the West Ada School District.

Implementation Guidelines: Cell phones and other personal electronic devices may not be kept on a student's person during instructional periods. Each school or classroom, as determined by the building administrator, must designate an area for students to deposit their electronic devices prior to the start of class, facilitating easy monitoring by teachers. This area may include student lockers, a basket, phone vault, or other conspicuous and clearly communicated "Designated Storage Area".

Devices must be powered off before being placed in the Designated Storage Area. This practice promotes an environment conducive to academic engagement and reduces disruptions. Teachers may opt to designate a responsible student or establish a rotation system for collecting devices, ensuring a smooth and timely process while fostering a sense of accountability among students for their belongings.

Smartwatches and other wearables are specifically exempted from the requirement to be placed in a "Designated Storage Area", but must be powered down during instructional time. Any use of or distractions created as a result of powered wearable devices will be subject to disciplinary action.

Exceptions: Occasionally, teachers may permit the limited use of electronic devices strictly for educational purposes during class/instructional time, provided that clear guidelines are communicated to students. In cases of emergency necessitating immediate access to electronic devices, the teacher may address them on a case-by-case basis, exercising discretion. It's important to note that this Administrative Regulation does not pertain to school-issued tablets or laptops, nor to equipment specified in an individual student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), English Learning Plan (ELP), 504 Plan, Health Services Plan, or any other health accommodations.

Device Retrieval: Students may retrieve their electronic devices at the conclusion of the class/period, but only at the direction of the teacher. Teachers are responsible for conducting periodic checks to ensure that all devices are returned and properly accounted for.

Enforcement: West Ada personnel are mandated to rigorously enforce this policy and Administrative Regulation within their classrooms. Repeated or egregious violations will be promptly escalated to the building's administration for further action using the discipline matrix.

Loss/Damage: West Ada School District shall not be held liable for the theft or loss of electronic devices brought onto school premises.

Communication with Parents and Guardians: It is imperative to inform parents and guardians about the electronic device policy and its accompanying Administrative Regulation through various channels such as newsletters, school websites, student handbooks, and other communication platforms. A designated point of contact at each school site must be readily available for parents or guardians to address any inquiries or concerns they may have regarding the policy.

This Administrative Regulation is effective for the commencement of the 2024-2025 school year and supersedes any previous regulations regarding electronic device management, either District or school-wide.

Blackfoot School District No. 55 recognizes the value and importance of electronic communication, online presence, and innovative technology tools to enhance the learning experience and work environment within the District. However, student use of personal electronic communication devices during school hours may interfere with or disrupt the educational process.

DEFINITIONS

“Personal Communication Device (PCD)” includes, but is not limited to, personal cell phones, tablets (e.g. iPads and similar devices), personal computers, laptops, iPods/MP3 players, electronic readers (e.g. Kindles and similar devices), pagers, and other similar devices or media players, without regard to the commercial name or manufacturer of the device, whether handheld, car models, laptop or other computer usage, or combinations of any of the above.

“Social media networks” include, but are not limited to, websites, web logs (blogs), wikis, social networks, online forums, virtual worlds, and any other social media generally available to the public that does not fall within the district’s technology network (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, blog sites, Wikipedia, etc.).

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Students may not use PCDs on school property or at school-sponsored activities during school hours without prior authorization. A student may possess a PCD in school, on school property, and at school-sponsored activities, provided that during school hours the device remains off (not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight.

Students may not use PCDs on school property or at school-sponsored activities to access and/or view Internet websites, including social media networks, that are otherwise blocked to students at school or to take part in any activity prohibited in the district’s acceptable use policy (see Policy No. 942, Acceptable Use of Internet, Computer and Network Resources for Students).

Except as authorized by a teacher, administrator or IEP team, students are prohibited from using a PCD during the school day, including while off campus on a field trip, to capture, record and/or transmit audio or images (i.e. pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person. Using a PCD to capture, record and/or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without proper consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted.

The use of PCDs with built-in cameras is prohibited at all times in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include, but are not limited to, locker rooms, bathrooms, shower facilities, and other locations where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes in which inappropriate or privacy violating images may be obtained. The Superintendent

and building principals are authorized to determine other specific locations and situations where use of a PCD is absolutely prohibited.

Students may not use a PCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated (See Policy 506.50 – Prohibition Against Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying). In particular, students are prohibited from using PCDs to:

1. Transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or ancestry; and
2. Engage in “sexting,” i.e., sending, receiving, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, emails or other materials of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form.

Students are also prohibited from using a PCD to capture and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using their PCDs to receive such information.

The district is not responsible for theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to PCDs brought onto its property.

Parents/guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school's main office. Students may use designated school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day.

CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying, including, but not limited to, using any electronic communication device to convey a message in any format (audio or video, text, graphics, photographs, or any combination thereof) that intimidates, harasses, or is otherwise intended to harm another individual is prohibited.

EXCEPTIONS

PCDs may be used in the following circumstances:

1. With prior approval from the building principal.
2. During approved classroom instruction.
3. During an emergency situation involving the immediate health/safety of a student or other individual(s).

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION

Possession of PCDs by a student is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

Students who violate the privacy provisions of this policy and/or use a PCD to violate the privacy rights of another person may have their device confiscated and held until a parent/guardian picks it up, and may be directed to delete the audio and/or picture/video file while the parent/guardian is present. If the violation involves potentially illegal activity the confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement.

For the first violation, the device will be confiscated until the end of the school day at which time the student may reclaim it from the building principal's office.

Subsequent violations of this policy will result in confiscation of the device for a period of time to be determined by the building principal. Devices confiscated on two (2) or more occasions must be reclaimed from the building principal's office by the student with his/her parent or guardian present.

The district will use reasonable care to safeguard confiscated devices by designating a locked storage area, but does not assume liability in the event such confiscated device is lost, stolen, or damaged.

Repeated violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity.

**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

20 U.S.C. §1232g (Family and Educational Rights Privacy Act)

34 C.F.R. Part 99

Idaho Code §33-512 – Governance of Schools

ADOPTED: June 19, 2008

AMENDED: December 16, 2010

July 18, 2016

October 22, 2020