

Student Use of Cell Phones in Schools

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Board of Education of the Fairview Park City School District has determined the use of cell phones by students during school hours should be limited.

The objective of this policy is to strengthen the District's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

Research

Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

Applicability

This policy applies to the use of cell phones and to the use of any other cellular or internet-connected device capable of receiving or transmitting communications (collectively "cell phones") by students while on school property during school hours.

Use of Cell Phones

Students are prohibited from using cell phones at all times.

Exceptions

1. Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.
2. A student may use a cell phone to monitor or address a health concern. The need for a "health concern" to be monitored or addressed through the use of an ECD at school must be affirmed with a signed statement from the student's physician, which must be submitted to the student's building principal for authorization.
3. Students may use cell phones for purposes of student learning, if expressly authorized by their teacher and/or an Administrator.

Cell Phone Storage

Students shall keep their cell phones in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device (if provided by the District), at all times when cell phone use is prohibited.

Discipline

Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, and may have their cell phone confiscated. As determined appropriate by the teacher or administrator based upon the circumstances, a confiscated cell phone may be returned to the student at the end of the class period or the end of the school day, or to the parent/guardian of a student at the end of the school day.

Notice

This policy shall be made publicly available, posted in a central location in each school building, and posted prominently on the District's publicly accessible web site.

LEGAL REFS: R.C. 3313.753

Adopted: _____