



Book	Policy Manual
Section	8000 - Students
Title	8506 - Student Use of Personal Electronic Communication Devices
Code	8500 - Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
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The Pocatello/Chubbuck School District No. 25 understands the critical role technology plays in today's educational landscape. However, the district also recognizes that certain electronic communication devices, such as cell phones, can present distractions that hinder its mission to Think More, Learn More, and Be More Together. Research shows that unrestricted access to electronic devices can negatively impact a student's emotional wellbeing, safety, and academic progress. The district is committed to creating an environment where learner engagement, focus, and personal growth takes precedence.

DEFINITIONS

- **Personal Electronic Communication Devices** - Any privately owned electronic device that is used for communication or accessing information. This includes, but is not limited to, smartphones, tablets, laptops, smartwatches, earbuds, and similar devices that can send or receive messages, make calls, access the internet, or connect to social media.
- **School Day** - The official start time to the official end time, including class periods, passing periods, recess and assemblies. For activities that take place off-campus when students are normally in school, such as field trips, trip-specific personal communication device regulations will be established by the trip facilitator.
- **Not on Person** - Personal electronic communication devices should be powered off, and out of sight, stored in a student's locker, backpack, bag, or vehicle.

During the school day, the use of personal electronic communication devices is strictly prohibited in all district schools. Students must keep their personal electronic communication devices turned off, and 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 communication devices may be stored in a locker, backpack, bag, or vehicle. The only exception is that high school students may use their devices on campus during their lunch periods.

~~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 personal electronic communication device is strictly prohibited on all district property, including restrooms and locker rooms, 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.

Use of personal electronic communication devices is a privilege and not a right. Students are required to adhere to the requirements outlined in this policy. Further, students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning the appropriate use of personal electronic communication devices.

Violations of this policy may lead to disciplinary measures including, but not limited to, forfeiting device privileges on school grounds, detention, suspension and/or expulsion, and confiscation of the device as outlined in the corresponding procedure.

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).