

Distraction-Free Education Policy (Board Review)

I. Purpose

By creating environments free from the distractions of cell phones and personal electronic communication devices, Forsyth County Schools is committed to ensuring that students are provided with every opportunity to focus on learning and engage in positive interactions to support their well-being.

II. Guidelines

1. Elementary and Middle Schools

1. All cell phones and personal electronic devices must be turned off and stored away during the bell-to-bell school day.
2. These restrictions do not apply to school buses, bus stops, or school grounds before and after the bell-to-bell day.

2. High Schools

1. All cell phones and personal electronic devices must be turned off and stored away during the bell-to-bell school day; however, students may access cell phones and personal electronic devices during assigned lunch periods.
2. These restrictions do not apply to school buses, bus stops, or school grounds before and after the bell-to-bell day.

III. Expectations

1. Students must comply with staff directives and the provisions of this policy to avoid disruption of the educational environment or they may be subject to disciplinary actions in compliance with the Code of Conduct.
2. When personal electronic devices are allowed, students should respect the privacy of others. Taking photos or videos of classmates, peers, and staff without prior approval of an administrator or staff member is strictly prohibited on school property, including school buses, or while involved in school-related activities.
3. FCS employees will be expected to model responsible use of cell phones and personal electronic devices.

IV. Disability and Other Accommodations

A student whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 plan, or medical plan explicitly mandates the use of a personal electronic device for medical or educational purposes shall be permitted to access the device as necessary to fulfill the requirements of the respective program or plan.

V. Notifications

Parents, guardians, and students will be informed of the policies and procedures associated with the Forsyth County Schools Distraction-Free Education policy.