

West Chicago Community High School
Student Cell Phone Expectations for the 2025–2026 School Year
Effective August 2025




Dear Wildcats,

Last year WeGo implemented new expectations regarding cell phones in classrooms and when using passes. As predicted, our Wildcats have done a great job meeting this new procedure. Beginning in the 2025-26 school year we will be altering those expectations in order to comply with Governor Pritzker's new legislation regarding cell phone use in schools. This document will outline the change in procedures for next year.

Rationale for Change

Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, West Chicago Community High School will implement a building-wide expectation requiring all student cell phones to be secured during instructional time. This change is in alignment with educational best practices listed below.

Why this change?

-  Supports student focus and academic success
-  Reduces distractions and social pressures
-  Creates a consistent, respectful classroom culture

Research and experience show that limiting cell phone access during class improves engagement, achievement, and well-being.

New Student Expectations:

Students, starting August 2025 the following expectations will be in place:

- **All students will place their phones in a storage unit at the start of every class.**
- **Phones will remain stored for the entire period.**
- **Applies to every period, every day, for every student.**
- **Storing your phone in your pocket or your backpack is not acceptable.**
- **Students who possess more than one phone must store ALL phones. Students using 'decoy' phones will be found in violation of this school expectation.**

Continued Student Expectations:

- **All students will continue to leave their phones in the classroom when using a bathroom pass.**
- **Students can still possess and use cell phones in non-instructional spaces during non-instructional time i.e., school cafeteria during lunch and hallways during passing periods.**

Staff Expectations

Students, to ensure consistency in all classes staff members will have the following expectations in place:

- Clearly explain the process and reasoning behind phones being stored each period.
- Enforce the expectation every day, every period.
- Disciplinary measures will be in place for students who do not comply (**See below**).

The Following Disciplinary Consequence May be Issued for Student Non-Compliance:

- **Phone call home**
- **Conference with student and staff member**
- **Referral to dean's office**
- **Lunch detention**
- **After school detention**
- **In School Suspension**
- **Parent meeting**

Next Steps

Additional communication will be sent to families and students will be informed during their Den period. In addition, written communication will be sent home as well as videos posted through Social Media over the summer. We recognize that this is a significant shift, and we are committed to supporting our entire school community through the transition. We thank you for your partnership in helping students thrive in a focused and respectful learning environment.