

# Personal Technology – Use of Cell Phones

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# Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to follow up from the May 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting, highlight elements of the draft new regulation and procedure for telecommunication devices, and confirm common handbook language for 2025-26.

# Regulation 3245

## Purpose and Mental Health Focus

Issaquah School District ensures all students have access to learning technology, while placing limits on personal electronic devices to support and protect student well-being.

# Regulation 3245

## Key Highlights:

- **Mental Health & Social Media:**

- Limits device use during class and social time to reduce exposure to social media pressures.
- Encourages face-to-face interaction and reduces distractions, supporting focus and emotional health.

- **Safe & Respectful Use:**

- Devices must not disrupt learning or violate privacy.
- Explicit content and cyberbullying are strictly prohibited.

# Developmental Approach

The policy evolves by school level, gradually increasing student autonomy, with embedded age-appropriate expectations to encourage responsibility

# Elementary School

## Key Highlights:

- Devices must be off and away all day
- Builds healthy habits early – prioritizing interpersonal development

## Handbook Language:

Cell phone and smart watch use is prohibited during the school day and on school buses unless authorized by school personnel. No mechanical or electronic device shall be used to audio or video record any classroom instruction or activity on district premises immediately before, immediately after or during the school day, or on district provided transportation without the express permission of the classroom teacher and administrative staff at the school.

# Middle School

## Key Highlights:

- Devices are silenced and stowed away during class, including hallways
- Supports growing self-management and transitions

## Handbook Language:

Cell phones and other personal electronic or “smart” devices, including headphones and Air Pods, will need to be silenced and stowed in backpacks/or placed in a teacher designated location at the beginning of each class period and remain stowed until the end of class period. This policy extends to hallways and common areas while class is in session.

# High School

## Key Highlights:

- Similar to middle school but makes a provision for use during non-instructional time
- Prepares students for adult responsibility and balanced digital habits

## Handbook Language:

Cell phones and other personal electronic or “smart” devices, including headphones and Air Pods, will need to be silenced and stowed in backpacks/or placed in a teacher designated location at the beginning of each class period and remain stowed until the end of class period. This policy extends to hallways and common areas while class is in session.



# Clear Tier 1 and Flexibility in Implementation

Strong Tier 1 practice includes clearly communicated expectations.

This new regulation sets the expectation, and gives individual schools the opportunity to have additional requirements for when personal technology is stowed and away.

District leaders will use next year to refine and reflect on the evolution of how personal technology is used and not used during the school day and school functions.

# Questions and Discussion