

Wireless Communication Devices

- A. Possession of Wireless Communication Devices – Students are allowed to bring wireless communication devices into school buildings and onto school grounds. Wireless communication devices include:

- a cellular telephone;
- a tablet computer;
- a laptop computer;
- a pager;
- a gaming device;
- a smart watch;
- AirPods; and
- any other portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device.

The Board is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any wireless communication device brought onto campus by a student.

- B. Storage of Devices– Unless one of the exceptions listed below applies, any wireless communication device that is in the possession or control of a student, while that student is in a school building or on school grounds, must be turned off and stored off the student's person in a locker, car, or a similar storage location during the instructional day, which includes:

- when school is open and in session;
- during class time, lunch, transitions between classes, and any non-instructional periods; and
- any other times students are required to do so by the Code of Conduct or other school rules or are instructed to do so by school staff.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to determine appropriate storage locations for such devices at each school.

- C. Prohibition on Use and Exceptions – Students cannot use, operate, or possess a wireless communication device during the instructional day, except under the following limited circumstances:

- The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is specifically included in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or an Individualized Health Plan;
- The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is for educational or learning purposes under the supervision of school personnel; or
- The use, operation, and/or possession occurs during an emergency threatening the life or safety of the student or another person.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop additional guidelines for implementation of these exceptions.

- D. Searches – School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any wireless communication device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such examination shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.
- E. Disciplinary Action – Any violations of this policy can result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Conduct.
- F. Additional Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop any additional rules necessary to carry out this policy.

Source: Athens City Board of Education, Athens, AL
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 LEGAL REF: Ala. Act 2025-386