

Title: Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices During Instructional Time

It is the policy of the Council Bluffs Community School District that students may not use personal electronic devices during instructional time. Students have access to district-owned electronic devices and may use them as appropriate during the school day.

For the purposes of this policy, instructional time is defined as any time during which a student is scheduled to be under the guidance and supervision of licensed instructional staff, including while participating in independent study during the school day.

In grades 6-12, instructional time shall be from the beginning of each period's class bell until the bell at the end of each class. In preschool through grade 5, instructional time shall be from the beginning of the school day until the end of the school day. During these times, personal electronic devices will be required to be placed on silent and not be visible.

For purposes of this policy, a "personal electronic device" is a device that is owned and used by a student to send or receive information or create or review content, including cellular and mobile phones, watches or other wearable devices in a receive or transmit mode, laptop or notebook computers, tablets, video game devices, portable media players, headphones, and any applications or programs installed by the student on a school-owned or issued device. Wearable devices may be visible but set to "do not disturb" mode.

Personal electronic devices that have been specifically authorized under a current individual education plan (IEP), a Section 504 plan, or an Individual Health Plan (IHP) are exempt from this policy.

A student's personal electronic device may be used during instructional time under the following conditions:

- a member of the school's instructional staff permits use of personal electronic devices for a specific instructional purpose that aligns with the course standards or outcomes.
- a member of the school's instructional staff permits use of personal electronic devices during an emergency situation

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If there is a matter requiring the student's immediate attention, a parent or guardian may contact the school office or attendance office. School personnel will relay messages to the student or request the student come to the office to communicate with the parent.

Interventions for Violations of Policy

Interventions of this policy will align with the Student Code of Conduct, which includes appropriate consequences for behaviors that disrupt the learning environment.

First Incident: The student will surrender the device to school staff who shall return the device at the end of the instructional period.

Subsequent Incidents: Each building will determine repeated violation interventions, which may include:

- Personal device will be held until the end of the school day
- Conference with student
- Parent/guardian conference
- Support/intervention plan
- Extended period of loss of device use during the school day
- Detention or other extended school time options
- Suspension

Any time a device is surrendered, the confiscated device will be secured by a school staff member.

Student-Specific Exceptions to Policy

A parent or guardian of a student may apply to allow their child to maintain access to a personal electronic device for a legitimate reason related to the student's physical or mental

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health, based on the unique facts of the student's case and healthcare provider documentation. The application shall be submitted to the building principal. If not granted, a parent or guardian may appeal to the superintendent or designee, whose decision shall be final. A parent or guardian has the burden of providing a legitimate reason for allowing the child to maintain access to a personal electronic device contrary to policy.

Cross References:

512, 522, 530.1, 617, 617.1, 639

Legal References:

Iowa Code 279.8, 16 C.F.R. 312, 34

C.F.R. pt. 99, 47 C.F.R. 54.5202

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