

## District Policy Manual Natomas Unified School District

### **Policy 5131.8 Mobile Communication Devices**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adoption Date:** 06/25/2025

**Last Revised Date:** 06/25/2025

In September 2024, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 3216, called the Phone-Free School Act. By July 1, 2026, all school districts must adopt a policy limiting or prohibiting the use of smartphones during the school day.

The Governing Board permits limited use of mobile communication devices on campus in accordance with law and the following policy. The term mobile communication device includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, headphones, Bluetooth devices, and other mobile communication devices used by students to communicate with others.

Students in TK-8 may not use or wear mobile communication devices once they have entered campus for the instructional day, including extended day learning programs. Devices must be turned off and placed out of sight until they leave campus for the day. Students who need to call a parent/guardian may use phones located in the administrative office.

For students in grades 9-12, mobile communication devices shall be turned off and stored during instructional time. Students may use mobile communication devices on campus during non-instructional time as long as the device is utilized in accordance with law and in accordance with BP/E 6163.4 Student Use of Technology.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or Designee to use any product or practice that would assist the schools in successfully implementing the restriction of mobile communication devices on campus.

Mobile communication devices shall be turned off during instructional time. However, a student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7)

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
2. When a teacher, administrator, or other district employee grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher, administrator, or other district employee.
3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being.
4. When the possession or use is required by the student's individualized education program.

Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner that infringes on the privacy rights of any other person. The use of any electronic device, to include cell phones, may NOT be used at any time in the bathroom or in gym locker rooms.

When a school official reasonably suspects that a search of a student's mobile communication device will turn up evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules, such a search shall be conducted in accordance with BP/AR 5145.12 - Search and Seizure.

When a student uses a mobile communication device in an unauthorized manner, the student may be disciplined, and a district employee may confiscate the device. The employee shall store the device securely until it is returned to the student or turned over to the principal or designee, as appropriate. If turned over to the principal, a parent/guardian may be notified and may be required to pick up the device from school. A student who violates this policy may be restricted from possessing a mobile communication device at school or school-related events.

A student may also be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, Board policy, or administrative regulation, for off-campus use of a mobile communication device that poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property or substantially disrupts school activities.

The district will not be responsible or liable for a student's mobile communication device which is brought on campus or to a school activity and is lost, stolen, or damaged.

The Board shall review and, as necessary, update this policy at least once every five years. Any such review or update shall include significant stakeholder participation to ensure that the policy is responsive to the unique needs and desires of the school community.

06/25/2025