

STUDENT USE OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

(Use of Personal Electronic Devices in School Policy and Procedures)

Purpose

The Coolidge Unified School District Governing Board is committed to maintaining a focused and distraction-free learning environment. To support academic achievement and student safety, the use of personal electronic devices—including but not limited to cell phones, smart watches, headphones, and earbuds—is restricted during the instructional day. This policy aligns with Arizona Revised Statutes § 15-120.05.

Procedures

A. General Prohibition

1. Personal electronic devices may not be accessed, displayed, or used during the instructional day, including class time, passing periods, break times, and meals, regardless of the student's location on campus.
2. A student who displays or uses a personal electronic device during the instructional day shall be considered in violation of this policy.

B. Authorized Use

1. Teachers may allow the use of personal devices for a specific, clearly defined instructional activity.
2. The school nurse may authorize exceptions in writing for students with documented medical needs.
3. As required by ARS 15-120.05, students can have access to personal devices during an emergency.
4. Students may use a personal device to contact a parent/guardian from the site administrative office with permission from a school staff member.
5. Parents may contact their child by calling the front office. A message to call the parent will be provided to the student. When appropriate, the student will be allowed to return the parent phone call using their personal device from the site administrative office.

C. Enforcement and Confiscation Procedures

1. First Offense: Students will be given a warning.
2. Second Offense: Teacher will confiscate the device and may return to the student at the end of the period.
3. Third Offense: Teacher will confiscate the device, and the student may pick up in the office at the end of the school day.
4. Fourth and Subsequent Offenses: Teacher will confiscate the device, and a parent/guardian can pick up in the office at the end of the school day. The student will then be placed on a behavior contract.
5. Refusal to surrender a device will result in disciplinary action for insubordination and/or failure to follow a reasonable request.

D. Administrative Guidelines

The Superintendent shall ensure administrative procedures are developed and implemented at each school site to support this policy. Procedures may include:

- ☐ Daily check-in/check-out processes
- ☐ Use of locked container for security of confiscated devices
- ☐ Logging and tracking of repeat offenses
- ☐ Clear communication to families during enrollment regarding district liability limitations

E. Staff Responsibility

All school staff shall consistently enforce this policy. Site leaders are responsible for training and monitoring staff to ensure fidelity of implementation. Teachers who fail to adhere to the policy will be subject to corrective action.

Legal Reference

A.R.S. § 15-120.05 – Student access to internet; student use of wireless communication devices

Cross References

JIC – Student Conduct

JK – Student Discipline

IJNDB – Use of Technology Resources in Instruction

Personal Communication Device Q & A

Q: Is this new policy a cell phone ban?

A: No, it is not a ban. Students can have cell phones, but they must be turned off and put away during the school day.

Q: Why is this policy being implemented?

A: This policy supports House Bill 2484 that was signed into law by Governor Hobbs on April 14, 2025. A.R.S 15-120.05 was amended as a result of this bill. The policy aims to create distraction-free classrooms and enhance student engagement. Research shows that limiting non-academic cell phone use can improve learning outcomes and reduce distractions. Additionally, the policy requires schools to limit student access to social media platforms. The district is unable to monitor these platforms on personal devices.

Q: When does this policy go into effect?

A: The policy will be effective starting July 21, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year.

Q: How will this policy be enforced?

A: Teachers and staff will remind students of the policy and ensure that all communication devices to include, but are not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, earbuds and headphones, are turned off and put away during the school day. Repeated violations may result in disciplinary action in accordance with guidelines set by the school the student is attending.

Q: What if I need to contact my child during the school day?

A: In case of an emergency, you can contact the school office, and they will relay the message to your child. Your child will then be allowed to use their personal device in the school office to return your call.

Q: Will students still have access to technology for learning?

A: Yes, students will still have access to school-provided technology for educational purposes. The policy specifically targets non-academic digital device use.

Q: How will the impact of this policy be measured?

A: We will evaluate the policy's impact on student behavior, testing outcomes, and overall student performance to inform future decisions.

Q: Where can I find more information about this policy?

A: Specific information can be found in the student handbook, the Arizona Revised Statute, and the CUSD policy manual.



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