



Prohibition of Personal Electronic Devices During the School Day (Policy JICJ)

Issued 12/24 - The purpose of this policy is to create a phone-free school environment that fosters a positive learning experience free from electronic distractions. By prohibiting the use of personal electronic devices during the school day, this policy aims to provide an environment that enhances focus and engagement, allowing students to develop the college and career-ready skills outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Students will have more opportunities to engage in meaningful interactions, collaborate with peers, and cultivate the essential skills necessary for success in college, careers, and life.

This policy has been developed in compliance with the General Appropriations Bill, H. 5100 of 2024, Proviso 1.103 and is applicable to grades prekindergarten through twelve.

Proviso 1.103 (SDE: Anti-Bullying/School Safety) To receive state funds allocated for State Aid to Classrooms, a school district shall implement a policy adopted by the State Board of Education that prohibits access to personal electronic communication devices by students during the school day. For purposes of this provision, a personal electronic communication device is considered to be a device not authorized for classroom use by a student, utilized to access the Internet, wi-fi, or cellular telephone signals.

The district is not responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of electronic communication devices brought onto school or district property or in a student's possession while he/she is attending district or school-sponsored activities or events.

I. Definitions:

- A. "Personal electronic device," hereinafter referred to as "device," means any device utilized to access the internet, wi-fi, cellular telephone signals, or to capture images or video. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, tablets, gaming devices and any other wearable technology.
- B. "Personal Electronic Device accessories," hereinafter referred to as "device accessories," include any wired or wireless accessory or wearable technology that connects to a device and any other accessory commonly used in conjunction with a personal electronic device.
- C. "School day" is defined as the period of time that a student enters a school building or courtyard from their arrival until afternoon dismissal at the end of the instructional day. This policy may also apply to school buses, field trips, and athletic events at the discretion of a supervising district employee.
- D. "Access" is defined as viewing, holding, wearing, or otherwise using a device for the purpose of communication, internet access, gaming, recording, or any other function commonly associated with devices. During the school day, devices should be powered off and stored in a book bag or locker. Exceptions granted for medical necessity, authorized classroom use, or other authorized reasons should be in writing and are not considered violations of this definition.
- E. "Authorized Classroom Use" is defined as the use of a personal electronic device that is explicitly approved by the District Superintendent or his/her designee in writing. The approval must include alignment with a standards-aligned educational

objective that cannot be reasonably achieved using district-owned devices. Students must be provided with clear instructions on the appropriate use of devices and ensure that their use aligns with the approved educational objectives. The District Superintendent or his/her designee may revoke approval at any time if it is determined that their use does not meet the intended educational objectives or is causing disruptions.

II. Policy Implementation and Enforcement:

- A. During the school day, students are prohibited from accessing their personal electronic device. Students may not wear or access device accessories during the school day. Students must store their devices and device accessories in lockers, backpacks, or otherwise as directed by the school district during the school day. Districts may forbid student possession of devices and device accessories on school property.
- B. If explicitly required by a student's IEP, Medical Plan, or 504 plan, the student shall be allowed to access their personal electronic device for medically or educationally necessary purposes described and required for administration of the IEP, Medical Plan or 504 plan.
- C. A student who is a member of a volunteer firefighting organization or emergency organization may be authorized to carry a device with written permission from the District Superintendent or his/her designee.
- D. If a student violates the preceding rules during the school day, the student will be subject to progressive consequences in the student code of conduct and disciplinary enforcement procedures outlined in this policy.

Those who violate this policy are subject to the following consequences:

- First offense – Warning/Device returned to the student at the end of the school day (Level 1 violation)
- Second offense – Parent Conference/Device returned to the parent at the conference (Level 2 violation)
- Third offense – Parent Conference/Device returned to parent and student loses phone privileges for the remainder of the school year. (Level 2 violation)
- Fourth offense – Middle and High school students receive two days of In-School Suspension.
- Elementary school students will be assigned discipline based on their cumulative disciplinary history. (Level 2 violation)
- Fifth offense – Out-of-School Suspension for two days (Level 2 violation)
- Sixth offense – District Discipline Hearing (Level 2 violation)

Consequences may be more severe than written above based on a student's cumulative disciplinary history for the current school year.

Failure to surrender a device will be considered an act of defiance and will result in the following consequences:

- First offense – 2 days of in-school suspension for middle and high school students.

Elementary school students will be assigned discipline based on their cumulative disciplinary history. (Level 2 violation)

- Second offense – 2-3 days of out-of-school suspension (Level 2 violation)
- Third offense – District Discipline Hearing (Level 2 violation)

Consequences may be more severe than written above based on a student's cumulative disciplinary history for the current school year.

Cf. JICDA

Adopted 4/1/03; Revised 8/7/07, 12/8/20, 11/12/24; 12/3/24

Legal References:

S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

Section 59-63-280 - Requires board to adopt a policy on student use of electronic devices.

General Appropriations Bill, H. 5100 of 2024

Proviso 1.103 (SDE: Anti-Bullying/School Safety)