

Mobile Device Use:

In an effort to limit or prohibit the use of mobile communication devices (see “Mobile Device Use-Elementary” in the Appendix for examples of mobile devices) by students while at school in accordance with BP 5131.8, pupils in grades TK-6 may not **use or display** mobile devices on campus during the instructional day or while participating in school activities. Further, students must store mobile devices out of sight with notifications disabled in a location designated by the classroom teacher.

For students in grades 7 & 8, mobile devices may **only be used in identified areas** during designated non-instructional times, such as lunch and breaks. Similar to TK-6 students, during instructional periods (unless otherwise approved by the supervising teacher for academic purposes), devices must remain stored out of sight in a location specified by the classroom teacher, silent and with notifications disabled.

For more detailed information regarding the Las Flores cell phone protocols and a copy of BP 5131.8, please refer to the Appendix.

Mobile Device Use:

In an effort to limit or prohibit the use of mobile communication devices (see “Mobile Device Use-Secondary” in the Appendix for examples of mobile devices) by students while at school in accordance with BP 5131.8, pupils in grades 9-12, mobile devices may **only be used in identified areas** during designated non-instructional times, such as lunch and breaks. During instructional periods (unless otherwise approved by the supervising teacher for academic purposes), devices must remain stored out of sight in a location specified by the classroom teacher, silent and with notifications disabled.

For more detailed information regarding the Las Flores cell phone protocols and a copy of BP 5131.8, please refer to the Appendix.



Las Flores Home Education
Independent Study Academy

Mobile Device Use - Elementary

The Bellflower Unified School District Board of Education has approved Board Policy 5131.8 in alignment with State Legislation AB 272 and AB 3216 to limit or prohibit the use of mobile communication device by students while at school or while students are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of the school district.

Mobile devices **may not** be used or displayed on campus and must:

- Be stored out of sight in teacher designated location
- Be turned off or on silent with notifications disabled
- Not be used during the entire instructional day or while participating in school activities

Students may use mobile devices in the following instances:

- During an emergency or response to a perceived threat of danger.
- When a teacher or administrator grants permission for a specific learning objective.
- When a licensed physician or surgeon determines the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being. (ex. diabetic student with blood sugar monitoring app)
- When the possession or use is required by the student's IEP.

Students may not use a mobile device as an electronic listening or recording device without prior consent of the teacher and principal. Any pupil in violation shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Electronic Listening or Recording Device – EC 51512

Inappropriate use of cell phones will be considered a violation of school rules and appropriate consequences will be issued.

Mobile Devices (not an exhaustive list) Include:

PDS
Tablets

MP3 players
Apple watches, glasses, etc.

Personal game devices
Headphones, AirPods, etc.

Consequence for Misuse:

Students not adhering to the mobile device policy will be issued consequences.

Continual disregard for the school mobile device policy will be considered an act of defiance and appropriate consequences will be issued. Consequences may include, but are not limited to**:

- Immediate confiscation of the device and parent notification.
- Confiscation of the device, Office Discipline Referral, parent notification, and consequence designated by administration.
- Confiscation of the device, Office Discipline Referral, parent notification, consequence designated by administration, and parent/guardian required to pick the device at the office.

***Discipline incidents regarding mobile devices will follow the school's Tiered Re-engagement Protocols and may lead to a student being put on evaluation and possible the inability to remain at Las Flores*

Confiscated devices will be securely stored until returned to the student, handed to the administrator or designee, or given directly to the student's parent or guardian, as appropriate. The district will not be responsible for any device that is lost, stolen, or damaged while on campus or at a school activity.



Las Flores Home Education
Independent Study Academy

Mobile Device Use - Secondary

The Bellflower Unified School District Board of Education has approved Board Policy 5131.8 in alignment with State Legislation AB 272 and AB 3216 to limit or prohibit the use of mobile communication device by students while at school or while students are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of the school district.

During instructional periods, devices **may not** be used or displayed and must:

- be kept silent, with notifications turned off, and stored in the location specified by the classroom teacher—out of sight
- not be used as an electronic listening or recording device without prior consent of the teacher and principal. Any pupil in violation shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Electronic Listening or Recording Device – EC 51512

Students may use mobile devices in the following instances:

- During an emergency or response to a perceived threat of danger.
- When a teacher or administrator grants permission for a specific learning objective.
- When a licensed physician or surgeon determines the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being. (ex. diabetic student with blood sugar monitoring app)
- When the possession or use is required by the student's IEP.
- During designated non-instructional times, such as before/after school, snack, lunch and breaks, and in the designated cell phone zones as defined by the site principal or designee.

Inappropriate use of cell phones will be considered a violation of school rules and appropriate consequences will be issued.

Mobile Devices (not an exhaustive list) Include:

PDS
Tablets

MP3 players
Apple watches, glasses, etc.

Personal game devices
Headphones, Airpods, etc.

Consequence for Misuse:

Students not adhering to the mobile device policy will be issued consequences.

Continual disregard for the school mobile device policy will be considered an act of defiance and appropriate consequences will be issued. Consequences may include, but are not limited to**:

- Immediate confiscation of the device and parent notification.
- Confiscation of the device, Office Discipline Referral, parent notification, and consequence designated by administration.
- Confiscation of the device, Office Discipline Referral, parent notification, consequence designated by administration, and parent/guardian required to pick the device at the office.

***Discipline incidents regarding mobile devices will follow the school's Tiered Re-engagement Protocols and may lead to a student being placed on evaluation and possibly the inability to remain at Las Flores.*

Confiscated devices will be securely stored until returned to the student, handed to an administrator or designee, or given directly to the student's parent or guardian, as appropriate. The district will not be responsible for any device that is lost, stolen, or damaged while on campus or at a school activity.



**Las Flores Home Education
Independent Study Academy**

Policy 5131.8: Mobile Communication Devices

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/27/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/27/2025

Purpose and Rationale:

The Board of Education values a school environment that promotes learning, connection, and well-being. While mobile communication devices offer convenience and benefits, the way they are used on campus should enhance, not detract from, students' educational experience and social interactions. This policy encourages students to use their devices responsibly, with a focus on fostering in-person connections and reducing the negative effects of inappropriate social media use, distraction, and over-reliance on devices.

Permitted Use:

Elementary Schools: To foster face-to-face interactions and minimize distractions, students must store devices out of sight for the entire instructional day, with notifications disabled. This approach promotes focus, engagement, and in-person connections.

Secondary Schools: To support students' development of responsible technology use, mobile devices may only be used during designated non-instructional times, such as lunch and breaks, as defined by the site principal or designee. During instructional periods, devices must remain stored out of sight and silent, with notifications disabled, to maintain a focused learning environment. This balance ensures that technology is used appropriately without interfering with academics or meaningful face-to-face interactions.

Exceptions Required by Education Code:

A student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device under the following circumstances (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7):

1. In case of an emergency or a perceived threat of danger.
2. When a teacher or administrator grants permission for specific educational or health-related needs, subject to reasonable limitations.
3. When necessary for the student's health, as determined by a licensed physician or surgeon.
4. When required by the student's individualized education program.

Exception for Digital ID Cards:

If applicable, students are permitted to use mobile devices on school premises for accessing their digital ID cards, which may be required for identification or school business purposes. Such use must comply with school administration guidelines to minimize disruption to the educational environment.

Privacy and Search:

Mobile communication devices shall not infringe upon the privacy rights of others. A school official may search a student's device if there is reasonable suspicion that it contains evidence of a violation of law or school policy, in accordance with BP/AR 5145.12 - Search and Seizure.

Enforcement and Disciplinary Actions:

Each school site shall develop a clear, consistent enforcement policy for unauthorized mobile device use, including specific consequences. These site-specific policies must align with applicable board policies, Education Code provisions, and other relevant laws to ensure fairness and compliance.

Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- Confiscation of the device.
- Parent notification.
- Progressive disciplinary actions, such as detention or loss of privileges.

Confiscated devices will be securely stored until returned to the student, handed to the principal or designee, or given directly to the student's parent or guardian, as appropriate. Each site's policy should be communicated clearly

to students, parents, and staff at the start of each school year.

The district will not be responsible for any device that is lost, stolen, or damaged while on campus or at a school activity.

Implementation:

The Board of Education is committed to supporting schools in developing consistent yet flexible policies for mobile device use that reflect the needs of their unique communities. To ensure effective implementation, the district will provide general principles for enforcement and guidelines for developing site-specific procedures.

Responsibilities for Schools and Staff:

- Collaborative Policy Development: The principal or designee at each school site will work collaboratively with staff to develop clear policies, procedures, and consequences related to enforcement. These policies should align with district priorities and reflect the unique needs of each school community.
- Ensure Consistent Enforcement: Principals or their designees are responsible for ensuring consistent enforcement of their site-specific policies, including training staff and addressing discrepancies to maintain fairness and adherence to district guidelines.
- Model Digital Responsibility: Staff are encouraged to minimize personal use of devices during instructional time to set an example of responsible behavior for students.
- Promote Digital Citizenship: Schools shall incorporate education on privacy, respectful communication, and the impact of digital behaviors into their existing routines or curriculum.
- Encourage Device-Free Social Spaces: Schools are encouraged to create device-free opportunities during lunch or break times to foster face-to-face connections.
- Inform and Engage Students and Families: The Superintendent or designee shall ensure students and families are informed of the mobile device policy annually through student and parent handbooks, district and school websites, and other appropriate communication channels. Schools should also engage students in understanding and supporting the rationale behind the policy to encourage adherence and mutual respect.

The Superintendent or designee will facilitate collaboration across schools to share best practices and monitor implementation for consistency.

Monitoring and Review

The Superintendent or designee shall oversee the implementation and effectiveness of this policy through periodic reviews and feedback from school sites.

Key Actions for Monitoring:

- Stakeholder Input: Gather qualitative feedback from students, staff, and families about the impact of the policy on learning environments and school culture.
- Trends and Observations: Monitor general trends in areas such as classroom engagement, disciplinary actions, or other indicators as reported by school leaders, without requiring additional formal data collection.
- Policy Refinement: Based on feedback and observations, adjust the policy or implementation guidelines as necessary to better align with district priorities and community needs.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide periodic updates to the Board of Education summarizing feedback, implementation consistency across sites, and any recommendations for refinements.
