

MORE FOCUS. MORE LEARNING. MORE TOGETHER.

CELL PHONE & DEVICE POLICY CHANGES FOR 2025-26

What's New?

Effective immediately, personal electronic communication devices must be **turned off, out of sight, and not on the learner's person** during the school day.



PERSONAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Includes cell phones, earbuds, smartwatches, tablets, and laptops.



STORE AWAY

Devices may be stored in lockers, backpacks, bags, or vehicles.



ACADEMIC EXCEPTIONS

Allowed with teacher direction and administrator approval.



SMARTWATCHES

Allowed in elementary schools and high schools only if powered off or in **"school mode."** Smartwatches are prohibited in middle schools.



LUNCHTIME PERSONAL DEVICE USE

Allowed for high school learners only.

Why the Change?

Creating Focused Learning Environments. Building Better Habits. Growing Together.

Studies show that healthy boundaries around device use help improve:

- Learner focus and attention
- Academic achievement
- Social and emotional wellbeing
- School safety and climate

This policy helps create a learning-first culture while supporting communication, meaningful relationships, and a safe environment for all learners.

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FAMILY FAQs

Q: Can my child keep their phone in their pocket or sleeve—just in case?

A: No. Devices must be off, out of sight, and not on their person (i.e., not in clothing, lanyards, etc.). Learners may store devices in a locker, backpack, bag, or vehicle.

Q: What if there's an emergency?

A: Anytime there is an emergency situation, our first priority is to ensure the safety of the campus. We'll ensure your child can reach you in the case of personal emergencies. Staff may allow a supervised phone call in the front office, nearby area, or phone available in the classroom. Students will be given a measure of privacy for personal calls. Families may always contact the school office directly.

Q: What about smartwatches?

A: Smartwatches are allowed in elementary and high schools, and only if they are powered off or set to "school mode." Smartwatches are prohibited in middle schools. If used to message, call, or access content during the school day, they will be treated as a violation.

Q: Are personal electronic devices allowed for classwork?

A: Yes, but only in specific cases with teacher permission and administrator approval. Devices must be used only for the purpose of educational activities and learning.

Q: My child has a 504, IEP, or medical plan. What now?

A: This policy does not override accommodations outlined in a 504 Plan, IEP, or Health Plan.

Q: What happens in the case of policy violations?

A:

- Device is taken and held until the end of the day.
- A parent/guardian conference is required (phone or in-person).
- Repeated violations may result in loss of device privileges, detention, or other disciplinary measures.
- Serious violations (e.g., threats, bullying, sexting, privacy violations) will result in disciplinary action and may involve law enforcement.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

In partnership with PCSD 25 families, we are committed to helping learners build healthy digital habits. Together, we can think more, learn more, and be more together.

Contact your school administrator with questions or review the policy and learn more by visiting:
www.sd25.us/morefocus

REMINDERS



Photos/videos/audio may not be taken during the school day unless approved for a class project or during high school lunch.



Recording is never allowed in restrooms or locker rooms.



The district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal devices.

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