

(From TCSS 2025-2026 Student-Parent Information Guide)

STUDENT PERSONAL WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES USE

The Tuscaloosa County School System in accordance with Alabama state law establishes this comprehensive policy regarding student use of wireless communication devices, in full alignment with the recently enacted Alabama FOCUS Act. This new policy specifically prohibits the use, operation, and possession of smartphones, tablets, laptops, gaming devices, and other wireless communication devices by students during the instructional day, including times like lunch and class transitions. Our aim is to foster an optimal learning environment by minimizing distractions from personal electronic devices, while also incorporating robust internet and social media safety guidelines to ensure the well-being and academic success of all students. Tuscaloosa County School System will not be responsible for lost or stolen items brought to school by students.

TCSS WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE POLICY – FOCUS ACT

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STORAGE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students are required to store their personal wireless communication devices off their person in a backpack, locker, vehicle, or in some other location as determined by the school. Devices MUST be stored from the start of the school day to the end of the school day.

Code of Conduct - Secondary School (6-12)

Wireless Communication Device Policy

****Defiance (Failure to surrender phone):** Failure to surrender the cell phone upon the request of TCSS faculty or administration will be considered a class II offense – Defiance of authority**

1st Offense

- Office Referral Student Conference (Warning)
- Loss of cell phone (Must be picked up from school by parent/guardian)

- Parent Acknowledgement Form printed from student information system

2nd Offense

- Office Referral and referral for IMPACT (Cell Phone)
- Student receives detention or ISI (1 day)
- Parent receives IMPACT Letter
- Failure to attend IMPACT will result in a 1 to 3-day suspension

3rd Offense

- Student receives a 3 to 5-day suspension

4th Offense

- 15 Day placement to the TCSS Academy
- Possible placement at Legends Academy if alternative placement is not completed successfully.

Elementary School (Grades K-5):

Defiance (Failure to surrender phone): Immediate in-school intervention and parent contact. Suspension of up to 1 day may be considered depending on the specific circumstances and student's disciplinary history.

1st Offense

- Verbal warning and reminder of the school's cell phone policy. The phone will be collected and returned to the parent at the end of the school day.

2nd Offense

- Conference with the student and parent to discuss the policy and expectations. The phone will be collected and returned only to the parent/guardian.

3rd Offense

- In-school intervention (e.g., loss of privileges, restorative conversation). The phone will be collected and returned only to the parent/guardian.