



Henry County Schools: FOCUS: ON – Distraction-Free Learning Frequently Asked Questions

What is the "Focus: ON" campaign, and what is its primary goal?

The "Focus: ON" campaign is designed to promote a distraction-free learning environment in HCS for the 2025-2026 school year. Its primary goal is to maximize student learning by minimizing digital distractions. The campaign encourages students and staff to activate their "focus mode" during the instructional day.

Is this the law? Yes, the state of Georgia passed the Georgia Distraction-Free Education Act (HB 340), which bans the use of personal electronic devices in grades K-8 during the school day. The law takes effect July 2026; however, Henry County Schools will begin implementation in the 2025-2026 school year.

What devices are covered by new Henry County Board Policy JCDAF?

In response to HB 340, the Henry County Board of Education approved Board Policy JCDAF, stating students in grades K-12 are not permitted to display or use a cell phone, smartwatch, or other electronic communication device on school property during the school day. The policy applies to all personal electronic devices, defined as any device used to access the internet, Wi-Fi, cellular signals, or to capture images or video. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, and gaming devices. Additionally, accessories such as wired or wireless accessories, wearable technology connecting to a device, and other common accessories like earbuds, headphones, and smart glasses are also covered.

What should students do with their devices during the instructional day?

During the instructional day, all personal electronic devices must be turned off, placed out of sight, and not used. Students are encouraged to store their electronic devices in their personal belongings, lockers, or other locations designated by school personnel.

How can parents reach their child in case of an emergency during the school day?

If parents need to reach their child during the school day, they should contact the school's front office. Urgent messages will be delivered promptly by school staff.

Are devices allowed on school buses?

Students are permitted to use their personal electronic devices while on the school bus before and after the designated instructional day. However, devices cannot be used during the loading and unloading of the bus.

What if my child requires a device for medical purposes?

Families should work directly with school administration to discuss accommodations for medical reasons.

Can students use phones between classes?

No, students are required to store their personal electronic devices away during the entire instructional day.

What is considered the "instructional day" under this policy?

The "instructional day" includes the entire school day from bell-to-bell. Essentially, once the student enters the school in the morning, until they leave school in the afternoon, personal electronic devices must be off, out of sight, and unused.

Elementary School is from 7:35 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Middle School is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

High School is from 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

What will happen if my student uses their cell phone during school day/consequences?

Any student that uses an electronic device during the instructional day may be found in violation of the HCS Code of Conduct and receive a consequence. Code of Conduct consequences may include: verbal warning, parent contact, device confiscation, ISS, or OSS.