



WISD Personal Communication Device Policy and Procedures

(K-12 grade Students)

In accordance with **House Bill 1481**, the Wharton Independent School District prohibits students from using personal communication devices while on school property during the instructional day.

Exceptions to this policy are limited to the following:

- A student whose use of a device is specified in an **Individualized Education Program (IEP)**, a **Section 504 Plan** under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or a similar educational plan;
- A student with a **documented medical need**, supported by a directive from a **licensed physician**;
- Situations in which device use is necessary to comply with **health or safety requirements imposed by law** or as part of the district's or school's established **safety protocols**.

This policy is intended to promote a focused learning environment while ensuring accommodations and safety needs are met in accordance with state law.

A school-issued locking system will be provided to each student with any electronic device upon enrollment in WISD and signing the District Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) by student and parent. If the designated school-issued locking system is lost or damaged, the student will be financially responsible for replacing it before they are allowed to bring any electronic communication devices back on campus. The assessed fee for lost or damaged designated school-issue locking systems will be \$30. Students will be required to turn in their designated school-issued locking device at the end of the school year. If lost or damaged, the student will be required to pay \$30 and will **NOT** be issued a locking device the following school year until the \$30 is paid.

School Day Processes

At the Beginning of the School Day:

1. Before entering the school premises, students must power off their personal cell phones and/or other electronic devices and place them into a designated school-issued locking system.
2. After placing their electronic devices inside the designated school-issued locking system, students must securely close the lock and store the locked pouch in their backpack.
3. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at class punctually with their designated school-issue locking system securely fastened and locked.
4. It is the student's responsibility to self-report at the beginning of the day if they fail to have their designated school-issue locking system upon arrival. See guidelines for "self-reporting" below.



Throughout the School Day:

1. Keep electronic devices securely stored in your assigned school-issued locking system for the entire school day.
2. In the event of leaving campus before the end of the day, unlock your designated school-issue locking system at the main office before exiting the building. It is the student's responsibility, upon returning to campus, ensure to relock your designated school-issue locking system at the main office.
3. Accessing any electronic devices anywhere on campus during the school day is strictly prohibited.

Conclusion of the School Day:

1. At the end of the school day, unlock the school-issued locking system using the unlocking device provided by a designated school staff member.
2. Securely close the empty designated school-issued locking system and place it in a backpack for use the following day. Please note, any damage to the locking system will be the student's responsibility.

Policy Violations & Consequences:

What happens if a student uses a personal device during the school day?

- Device will be confiscated and held in the front office
- Parent/guardian is notified
- Only a parent/guardian listed in Skyward, may pick up the device the next school day
- Device may be picked-up at the student's campus during the following times:
 - Sivells Elementary 7:30-3:30
 - Wharton Elementary 7:30-3:30
 - Wharton Junior High 7:50-3:40
 - Wharton High School 7:50-3:40

A parent or legal guardian may only retrieve confiscated personal communication devices. Students are **not permitted** to pick up their own devices. Any device not claimed within 90 calendar days of confiscation may be disposed of by the school.

Communication & Emergencies:

How can I contact my child during the school day?

- Please contact the campus front office. Staff will relay your message.

Does the school have the right to collect my child's phone?

- Yes, under House Bill 1481, schools may enforce policies that include collecting personal communication devices when they are used during the instructional day.