



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Public Relations

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Virgin Islands Department of Education Implements New Personal Electronic Communication Device Use Policy

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) has announced the implementation of its new **Personal Electronic Communication Device (PECD) Use Policy**, effective for the 2025-2026 school year, to ensure a safe, focused, and productive learning environment across all public schools in the Territory. The policy can be found on the VIDE website at <https://www.vide.vi/about/policies>.

The policy applies to all VIDE students, administrators, faculty, and staff, and outlines clear expectations for the appropriate use of cell phones and other personal electronic communication devices on school grounds.

Purpose of the Policy

VIDE's PECD Use Policy is designed to:

- Maintain an academic environment that minimizes unsanctioned cell phone use.
- Protect student privacy and safety.
- Reduce exposure to cyberbullying and inappropriate content.
- Ensure students remain focused during instructional time.

Key Provisions

- **Classroom Use:** Students may only use PECDs in class with written teacher authorization for pre-approved educational applications and platforms. At all other times, devices must be stored out of reach.
- **Emergencies:** Device use may be permitted in cases such as medical emergencies, severe weather, or other urgent safety concerns. Parents should contact the school's front office for family emergencies rather than calling or texting students directly.
- **Prohibited Activities:** These include accessing social media, unauthorized streaming, gaming, viewing inappropriate content, engaging in cyberbullying or cyberstalking, installing unauthorized software, and circumventing VIDE's network protections.
- **Securing Devices:** Students must store devices in backpacks, bags, or other secure locations during class unless otherwise instructed.
- **Disciplinary Measures:**
 - First Offense – Verbal Warning
 - Second Offense – Written Reprimand
 - Third Offense – Device Confiscation & Parent Conference

- Severe violations may result in immediate confiscation and loss of device privileges for the semester.
- **Device Retrieval:** Confiscated devices will be returned at the end of the school day to a parent or guardian for minors.

Accountability and Acknowledgment

All students and parents/guardians must sign the **PECD Acceptable Use Agreement** annually. This agreement acknowledges their understanding of the policy and the associated responsibilities. VIDE is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of personal devices brought to school. This policy supersedes all previously written memorandums and policies.

Commitment to a Safe Learning Environment

The VIDE's goal is to create a safe and focused learning space where students can thrive academically without unnecessary distractions. This policy is another step toward ensuring that technology supports learning rather than detracts from it.

For more information about the **Personal Electronic Communication Device Use Policy**, contact your school's administration or the Office of the Insular Superintendent for your respective district.

- **St. Croix District:** (340) 773-1095
- **St. Thomas-St. John District:** (340) 774-0100

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