



SAU #68

LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT



July 24, 2025

Dear Parents and Teachers,

You are cordially invited to attend a special School Board Meeting on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 6:30 PM** at the elementary school's MPR. This vital meeting will focus on gathering your invaluable input regarding a new school policy.

This new policy is being developed to align with the recently enacted state law concerning the **ban of personal electronic communication devices from bell-to-bell** during school hours. We believe that your perspectives are crucial in shaping a policy that is effective, fair, and clearly understood by our entire school community.

Specifically, we are seeking your feedback on the following key aspects:

- **Definition of Personal Electronic Communication Devices:** What devices should be included in this ban?
- **Enforcement of the Policy:** What are the most effective and practical ways to ensure compliance?
- **Consequences for Violating the Policy:** What should be the appropriate disciplinary actions for non-compliance?

Your insights on these matters will directly contribute to the successful implementation of this new policy, ensuring a focused and productive learning environment for all students. We strongly encourage you to attend and share your thoughts.

Please find attached the current state law and a draft policy from the New Hampshire School Board Association for your review prior to the meeting.

We look forward to a constructive discussion with you.

"A Community of Learners"

Mailing: 72 Linwood Drive, Lincoln NH 03251
Physical: 78 Main Street, Suite 3, Lincoln NH 03251

Telephone (603) 745-2051
Fax (603) 745-2352

DRAFT – NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (NHSBA) SAMPLE POLICY

JICJ

UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION DEVICES

A. Purpose

The District is committed to providing students with a learning environment free from disruptions. Use of personal communication devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, other communication devices, smartwatches, etc.) for nonacademic means often leads to disruptions in the learning environment for both individual students and the classroom.

For the purposes of this policy, a personal communication device is defined as any non-district provided internet/cellular-capable device that can support voice or video calls, texts, emails, or instant messages. Personal communication devices include, but are not limited to: cell phones, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches. For ease of reference, devices provided by the district for instructional use shall be referred to as "district-owned" or district-provided" devices.

B. Restrictions

Student use of personal communication devices is **strictly prohibited** from when the first bell rings to start instructional time until the dismissal bell rings to end the academic school day (referred to as "the school day"). The school day includes lunch periods, passing time, and recesses.

Students participating in extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, field trips or other activities outside of the school day shall abide by the rules and consequences established for personal communication devices set by the coach, instructor, sponsor or other designated supervisor for the activity. However, **in no event** shall personal communication devices (or any other device with photographic or recording capabilities) be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, or any other location where such use could violate another person's reasonable expectation of privacy.

If digital devices are used to enhance learning in the classroom, the District is responsible for providing District-owned devices.

While it is best practice that these devices are not brought to school, if these devices are brought to school, they shall be kept with the power turned off in a student's assigned locker, backpack, or handbag. The District will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of any electronic communication device brought to the school.

C. Exceptions

Students with medical needs, such as insulin pumps and glucose sensors, or disabilities that require a device to support their learning as identified by their individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, or a multilingual student with appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall be exempt from this policy. Additionally, the superintendent or their designee may approve additional exceptions on a case-by-case basis or through an administrative decision recorded in the student handbook, with respect to student medical, disability, or language proficiency needs.

D. Consequences and Violations

Students are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video media or take pictures of any student or staff member without their permission. The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in disciplinary action. The school reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, and review a student's personal electronic device subject to the limitations of RSA 189:70, if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has violated board policies, regulations, school rules, or has engaged in other misconduct while using their personal electronic device.

Consequences for violations of this policy will be pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.
Additionally:

1. First Offense: Warning and confiscation of the device for the remainder of the school day.
2. Second and Subsequent Offenses: The electronic communication device will be confiscated. A disciplinary referral will be written. The student's parent/guardian must pick up the device from the principal or superintendent's office.

E. Review

The Superintendent shall annually review policy in collaboration with parent(s) and teachers with a report and recommendations for policy changes to be delivered to the Board no later than April 1 of each school year.

F. Dissemination

The Superintendent shall ensure that information regarding the prohibition against using personal communication devices during the school day is included in all student handbooks, and included in "beginning of school year" materials provided to parents/guardians.

Legal References Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

NH Statutes

RSA 189-1-a, V
RSA 189:68
RSA 189:68-a
RSA 189:70
RSA 644:21

Description

Duty to Provide Education
Student Privacy
Student Online Personal Information
Educational Institution Policies on Social Media
Searches of Portable Electronic Devices

141:455 New Paragraph; Cell Phone Use Policy. Amend RSA 189:1-a by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. School boards and the board of trustees of chartered public schools shall develop and adopt a policy governing the use of student cell phones and other personal electronic communication devices in schools. Such policy shall prohibit all personal communication device use by students from when the first bell rings to start instructional time until the dismissal bell rings to end the academic school day, with approved exceptions determined by the superintendent or their designee with respect to student medical, disability, or language proficiency need. Such policy shall be developed in collaboration with school parents and teachers and shall be reviewed annually. School district and chartered public school policies shall not prohibit students with medical needs, such as insulin pumps and glucose sensors, or disabilities from using a device to support their learning as identified by their individualized education program (IEP), plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, or when required to support emergent multilingual students with appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



SAU #68
LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK
COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
PO Box 846, 78 Main Street #3, Lincoln NH 03251
Telephone: (603) 745- 2051 / Fax: (603) 745-2352
www.lin-wood.org



The Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School Board will hold a **Special School Board Meeting at 6:30 PM on August 13, 2025 to discuss policy JICJ-Unauthorized Communication Devices**. The Meetings will be held in the **Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room** and the Board Meeting will be available to watch or listen live via **ZOOM**.

**Please note: Public participation will be recognized in person only.*

*****Board members are encouraged to visit the SAU office and/or arrive early to the meeting to sign manifests.*****

AGENDA*

- I. SCHOOL BOARD MEETING - CALL TO ORDER** – Jay Duguay, Chairperson
- II. INTRODUCTION OF STATE LAW AND POLICY JICJ-UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION DEVICES** – Jay Duguay, Chairperson
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - A. Stakeholders are invited to provide input on Policy JICJ relating to the ban of student cell phones and other electronic communication devices including:**
 - Definition of a Personal Electronic Communication Device
 - Enforcement of the Policy
 - Consequences for Violating the Policy
- IV. SCHOOL BOARD JICJ POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORK SESSION**
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

****The School Board reserves the right to change this agenda at any time.***

Watch or listen to the meeting(s) live via **ZOOM**:
School Board Meeting: 6:30 PM August 13, 2025

Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89794154826?pwd=LXM4Tmotl9hJK0fqYS9WAHLF5Hx8nf.1>

Meeting ID: 897 9415 4826

Passcode: G8n8x2

Telephone: (646) 876 9923

Meeting ID: 897 9415 4826

Passcode: 804931

***PLEASE NOTE:** PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN PERSON ONLY. QUESTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS MAY BE SENT TO: community@lin-wood.org UNTIL 3:00 PM ON THE DATE OF THE MEETING. MEETING REBUTTAL QUESTIONS MAY ALSO BE FORWARDED TO: community@lin-wood.org. MEETING RELATED COMMUNICATION RECEIVED WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR REVIEW.