



Mobile Device Use

August 14, 2025



LAGUNA BEACH
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Legal Requirements

Education Code

State Law

- AB 272 (2019) grants LEAs the authority to regulate the use of smartphones during school hours.
- AB 3216 (2024) requires LEAs to develop and adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones while students are at a school site or under the control of an employee by July 1, 2026 and update such policy every 5 years.

Ed Code 48901.7, exceptions for students use

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger;
2. When a teacher or administrator grants permission to a pupil to possess or use a smartphone, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator;
3. When a licensed physician and surgeon determines that the possession or use of a smartphone is necessary for the health or well-being of the pupil;
4. When the possession or use of a smartphone is required in a pupil's individualized education program (IEP).



School Policies

Elementary School

- Students are restricted from using mobile devices, such as cell phones and smart watches, during school hours.
- Should a student possess a mobile device for any reason, it shall be stored privately in their backpack.
- Staff will implement progressive discipline measures, as outlined in Parent/Student Handbooks, for any violations of these guidelines.

*Staff highly discourages students from bringing mobile devices to school and consider waiting until high school before provide any type of smartphone.



School Policies

Middle School

- Students are restricted from using mobile devices, such as cell phones and smart watches, during school hours.
- At the beginning of each class, students are required to turn in their cell phones, which are securely stored by the teacher. Phones are returned at the end of the class period to minimize distractions and enhance learning.
- In the event that a student must make a phone call during break or lunch, this must occur in designated cell phone zone which is monitored by Campus Supervisors. This area is reserved for emergency or essential communication only
- Staff will implement progressive discipline measures, as outlined in Parent/Student Handbooks, for any violations of these guidelines.

*Staff highly discourages students from bringing mobile devices to school and consider waiting until high school before provide any type of smartphone.



School Policies

High School

- Students are restricted from using mobile devices, such as cell phones and smart watches, during instructional time to minimize distractions and enhance focus. Student may only access cell phones if granted permission from a teacher for instructional purposes.
- At the beginning of each class, students are required to turn in their cell phones, which are securely stored by the teacher. Phones are returned at the end of the class period to minimize distractions and enhance learning.
- Students may use cell phones to for essential tasks, such as registering for and check in to tutorials or accessing their digital ID to check in and out of campus, including when they go off-campus for lunch. Students may also use cell phones during the mid-morning break and lunch period.
- Staff will implement progressive discipline measures, as outlined in Parent/Student Handbooks, for any violations of these guidelines.



Social Media & Gaming

- Psychologist Jonathan Haidt asserts that the problem is not just smartphones by themselves, but more specifically the way smartphones are used—particularly for social media and gaming—during a sensitive developmental window in adolescence.
- **Social media** is blocked on district internet and devices. To promote events and positive school culture, high school ASB and club student leaders may periodically use social media platforms.
- **Gaming** is blocked on district internet and devices, with the exception of student clubs, such as eSports, when it complements the appropriate developmental experiences (real-world play, social interaction, creative problem-solving, etc.) with moderation and adult guidance.





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