



Cell Phone/Personal Device Regulations 2025-26

Purpose:

These regulations aim to establish clear guidelines for personal electronic devices and cellular telephone use at all Fairfield Public Schools to foster an optimal learning environment free from digital distractions and to promote direct interpersonal interactions among students. We recognize that cell phones are a part of modern life, but their use in school must not disrupt the learning process or compromise the school environment.

A. Responsibilities of families, caregivers, and students to support the implementation of and adherence to the policy or regulation:

- Promote student engagement in learning by being mindful of not communicating with students via personal electronic devices or cellular phone during the school day and encourage children to use planning and problem-solving skills, coping strategies, and in-school supports to help foster independence.
- Support school initiatives to create distraction free spaces that allow students to fully participate in their education while encouraging in-person connections with peers and adults.
- Model a healthy relationship with social media and screen time at home and reduce the use of technology as a tool for occupying young children.
- Consider using age-appropriate parental controls on smartphones to encourage the development of healthy relationships with technology.
- Establish open lines of communication with children and have regular conversations regarding the safe and responsible use of technology.

B. Definitions:

- **Personal Electronic Device/Cellular Phone:** Any electronic device that can send or receive communication, including but not limited to smartphones, tablets with cellular capabilities, and wearable devices (smartwatches) that can connect to the internet, collect, process and transmit data and communicate with other devices and networks or equipment on which digital images can be taken or transmitted.
- **Personal Electronic Device** does not include District or school issued technology.
- **Bell-to Bell:** Refers to the entire duration of the school day, from the first bell signaling the start of classes until the final dismissal bell.
- **Emergency Communications:** Communications from a student to a parent or from a parent to a student during the school day that is of a life-threatening or medical nature. All such Emergency communications shall be conducted via a designated office telephone in each school.

C. Elementary (Grades PK-5)

Personal Electronic Devices and Cellular Telephones are not permitted at school or on the school bus.

Consequences: Grades PK-5

- **1st Offense:** The device and/or cellular phone will be confiscated, stored in a safe place in the main office, a parent or guardian will be contacted and will need to pick up the device or cellular phone at the end of the school day.
- **2nd Offense:** The device and/or cellular phone will be confiscated, stored in a safe place in the main office, a parent or guardian will be contacted and will need to pick up the device or cellular phone at the end of the school day
- **3rd Offense:** Referral to the Assistant Principal, conference with parents: a parent or guardian will be contacted and will need to pick up the device or cellular phone at the end of the school day, parent/guardian conference, loss of other school privileges (e.g., participation in extracurricular activities)
- *Any egregious or criminal violation of school policy such as plagiarizing, posting unauthorized pictures or videos, bullying, or cyberbullying will be treated in accordance with Board discipline policies.*

For emergency communications between parents and students the following procedures will be followed:

- **PK-5: Parent to Student:**
 - Parents may call the main office for emergency communication.
 - Plans for after school should be made at home before coming to school or using the school dismissal application.
- **PK-5: Student to Parent:**
 - The office phone may be used with a teacher's or administrator's permission.

D. General Guidelines Middle and High School (Grades 6-12)

- **Responsible Use:** Students are expected to always use cell phones and personal electronic devices responsibly and respectfully.
- **Non-Disruptive:** The school aims to maintain an environment conducive to focused learning and positive social interaction, free from the distractions of personal electronic devices.
- **Respect for Privacy:** Students must respect the privacy of others and refrain from using cell phone cameras or recording functions without explicit permission.
- **Compliance with Staff Directives:** Students must comply with all staff directives regarding personal electronic devices and cellular telephones.
- **Liability:** The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones. Students are responsible for the security of their devices.

E. Middle School Specific Regulations: Bell-to-Bell (Grades 6-8)

- Personal Electronic Devices and Cellular phones must be turned off, stored in a locker or a backpack/bag, and not stored in a pocket or on the body from the first bell of the school day until the final dismissal bell. Alternatively, personal electronic devices and cellular phones can be kept at home.
- This includes all instructional time, passing time between classes, lunch periods, assemblies, and any other time when students are on school grounds during the regular school day.
- Students are not permitted to use, display, or have cell phones or personal electronic devices during these hours.
- Cell phones and personal electronic devices are strictly prohibited in restrooms and locker rooms.
- Cell phones and personal electronic devices cannot be used to record or photograph staff or students without their consent.
- Cell phones and personal electronic devices cannot be used to engage in cyberbullying, harassment, or the distribution of inappropriate content.
- Personal electronic devices and cellular phones should not be used during fire drills, lockdown drills, lockdowns, or evacuations unless told to do so.
- Personal electronic devices and cellular phones should never be used for violating school policy including, but not limited to, bullying, plagiarizing, or posting unauthorized or inappropriate pictures or videos.

F. Consequences: Grades 6-8:

- **1st Offense:** The device and/or cellular phone will be confiscated, stored in a safe place in the main office, a parent or guardian will be contacted and will need to pick up the device or cellular phone at the end of the school day.
- **2nd Offense:** The device and/or cellular phone will be confiscated, stored in a safe place in the main office. A parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up the personal electronic device or cellular telephone at the end of the school day. Students will receive a detention.
- **3rd Offense:** Referral to the Dean, conference with parents, and suspension of personal electronic devices and cellular telephones on school grounds for 10 school days. Students will receive a detention.
- **4th Offense:** Referral to the Dean, conference with parents. All personal electronic devices and cellular telephones will not be permitted at school for the remainder of the school year. Students will receive an In-School suspension
- ***Any egregious or criminal violation of school policy such as plagiarizing, posting unauthorized pictures or videos, bullying, or cyberbullying will be treated in accordance with Board discipline policies.***

For emergency communications between parents and students the following procedures will be followed:

- **6-8: Parent to Student:**

- Parents may call the main office in the case of a genuine emergency (e.g., a medical crisis, a safety threat, or a family emergency). The main office can get a message to their students.
- Plans for after school should be made at home before coming to school.

- **6-8 Student to Parent:**

- During the school day when students cannot access their personal devices and in the case of a genuine emergency (e.g., a medical crisis, a safety threat, or a family emergency), students may use the landline phone in the main office, counseling office or ask office personnel to contact parents.
- The main office phone may be used with an administrator or main office staff permission.

G. High School Specific Regulations: Bell-to-Bell (Grades 9-12)

- Personal electronic devices and cellular phones must be turned off and placed in a school-issued secure phone pouch from the first bell of the school day until students are dismissed for the day. Devices cannot be stored in a pocket or on the body. Alternatively, personal electronic devices and cellular phones can be kept at home.
- This includes all instructional time, passing time between classes, lunch periods, study halls, assemblies, and any other time when students are on school grounds during the regular school day.
- Students are not permitted to use, display, or have audible cell phones or personal electronic devices during these hours.
- Cell phones and personal electronic devices are strictly prohibited in restrooms and locker rooms.
- Cell phones and personal electronic devices cannot be used to engage in cyberbullying, harassment, or the distribution of inappropriate content.
- Cell phones and personal electronic devices cannot be used to record or photograph staff or students without their consent.
- Personal electronic devices and cellular phones should not be used during fire drills, lockdown drills, lockdowns, or evacuations unless told to do so.
- Personal electronic devices and cellular phones should never be used for violating school policy including, but not limited to, bullying, plagiarizing, or posting unauthorized or inappropriate pictures or videos.
- Students in grades 9-12 who use a personal laptop computer or tablet in lieu of a district issued device are subject to the same regulations and policies.

H. Consequences: Grades 9-12:

- **1st Offense:** The device and/or cellular phone will be confiscated, stored in a safe place in the main/house office. A parent or guardian will be contacted. Students may pick up the personal electronic device or cellular telephone at the end of the school day.
- **2nd Offense:** Referral to the Dean. A parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up the personal electronic device or cellular telephone at the end of the school day. Students will receive Saturday detention.
- **3rd Offense:** Referral to the Dean, conference with parents. All personal electronic devices and cellular telephones will not be permitted at school for 10 days. Students will receive an In-School suspension
- **4th Offense:** Referral to the Dean, conference with parents. All personal electronic devices and cellular telephones will not be permitted at school for the remainder of the school year. This includes a personal laptop computer or tablet that a student in grades 9-12 may be using in lieu of a school issued device. Students will receive an In-School suspension
- ***Destruction of school property/pouch will result in further discipline.***
- ***Any egregious or criminal violation of school policy such as plagiarizing, posting unauthorized pictures or videos, bullying, or cyberbullying will be treated in accordance with Board discipline policies.***

For emergency communications between parents and students the following procedures will be followed:

- **9-12: Parent to Student:**
 - During the school day when students cannot access their personal devices and in the case of a genuine emergency (e.g., a medical crisis, safety threat, or a family emergency), parents may call the house office to get a message to their students.

9-12: Student to Parent:

- During the school day when students cannot access their personal devices and in the case of a genuine emergency (e.g., a medical crisis, safety threat, or a family emergency), students may use the landline phone in the house office or ask office personnel to contact parents. Otherwise, students may contact parents during their lunch period.

I. Exceptions Grades Pk-12:

- Personal electronic devices or cellular telephones that are needed to monitor a student's health such as insulin levels, blood pressure, or seizures. Students using a device for a clearly defined medical purpose must have this accounted for within a student medical accommodation plan, which will require notification from a health care provider. Use of the personal device or cellular phone must be used exclusively for that described medical purpose only during school hours.

J. Review and Modification:

This policy will be reviewed periodically and may be modified as needed to reflect changes in technology, best practices, and the needs of the school community. Any changes to these regulations will be communicated to students, staff, and families at the time of any modification.