

OXFORD CITY SCHOOLS

Proud of Our Past – Preparing for the Future

Cell Phone Code of Conduct Amendment

6.20 Electronic Communication Devices

Starting with the 2025–2026 school year, Alabama law requires new restrictions on student use of wireless communication devices at school.

What counts as a wireless communication device?

“Wireless communication device” means a cellular telephone, tablet computer, laptop computer, pager, gaming device, smart watch or other wearable technology, iPad, earbuds, or any other portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device (Ex. Bluetooth earbuds).

Devices must be Turned Off and Stored:

Under the new law, Students must turn off and store all wireless communication devices away from their person during the instructional day. This includes:

- From the first bell to the final bell, and
- Any other time a teacher or administrator directs that devices be turned off and put away.

Devices must be stored in one of the following places:

- A locker
- A vehicle
- A school-approved storage location.

Each school will provide parents and students with information regarding approved storage locations.

Device Use is Allowed Only Under the Following Limited Circumstances:

- It is specifically allowed by the student’s IEP, Section 504 Plan, or Health Plan.
- A teacher or administrator has given permission for educational purposes.
- There is a true emergency that threatens the life or safety of the student or another person. In emergencies, students should still notify a teacher or adult first whenever possible.

Disciplinary Consequences for Violations:

Secondary Schools –

- 1st -** Administrative warning and parent/guardian must pick up the device
- 2nd -** Parent must pick up the device and 1-3 day TE
- 3rd -** Parent must pick up the device and 2-5 days TE and 1 day OSS
- 4th -** Mandatory Parent Conference; 3-10 days TE and up to 2 days OSS. Parent must pick up the device
- 5th -** Student referred to Superintendent and/or Board of Education for disciplinary hearing.

Elementary Schools -

- 1st -** Administrative warning and parent/guardian must pick up the device
- 2nd -** Parent must pick up the device and TE for all non-academic periods
- 3rd -** Parent must pick up the device and 1 day TE
- 4th -** Mandatory Parent Conference. Parent must pick up the device and 2 days TE.
- 5th -** Parent must pick up the device and 3 days TE
- 6th -** Student referred to Superintendent and/or Board of Education for a disciplinary hearing

Important Notes for Parents and Students:

- Devices may be confiscated and searched in accordance with Board policy and applicable law.
- Oxford City Schools is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen devices. Students bring personal devices to school at their own risk.
- The school may choose not to investigate missing or damaged device claims.

Devices on the School Bus:

Students may bring and use devices on the school bus, except:

- Recording, videoing, or creating a disruption is prohibited.
- Any time a bus driver or other school personnel directs personal devices to be turned off and stored.
- Violations may result in loss of bus device privileges and further disciplinary action which may include interruption of transportation services.
- Oxford City Schools assumes no responsibility for device loss, theft, or damage on the bus.

I acknowledge that I have received and understand the addendum to the Oxford City Schools Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date