



Date: November 18, 2025

To: All Media Partners

Release: *Immediate*

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education Approves Policy Updates on Use of Personal Technology Devices

Charlotte, NC – The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education approved an updated technology policy for Charlotte-Mecklenburg School (CMS) students and staff at its November 18 meeting. The approved modifications take effect January 1, 2026.

As required by statute, [Policy S-TECH, Technology Acceptable Use](#), was updated by outlining when wireless communication devices may be used during instructional time. These include when authorized by a teacher for educational purposes or in an emergency, as required by a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan, or to manage a student's healthcare. In addition, the policy clarifies when the district assumes responsibility for a student's device and that collected or confiscated devices be properly stored. Confiscation is one of the consequences of violating this policy. Expectations regarding student-use of wireless communication devices during non-instructional time are also contained in the policy, with provisions specific to certain grade levels.

In addition, the updated policy incorporates statutorily required language that addresses internet safety in schools, including that students should only have access to age-appropriate subject matter and materials, be safe when accessing materials on outlets such as email and chat rooms, and to stop students from accessing social media, except when expressly directed by a teacher for educational purposes. The revisions prevent access to websites, web applications, or software that do not protect against the disclosure of a student's personal information.

Finally, the revised policy memorializes that CMS employees and volunteers, including teachers, administrators, coaches, and school counselors, are not allowed to send text messages or other forms of electronic communications, including through mobile or web applications, to individual students, unless certain circumstances are met.

"The Board updated our Acceptable Technology Use policy to be legally compliant with NC statute," states Dee Rankin, chair of the policy committee and vice chair of the Board of Education. "We also used this as an opportunity to make sure that we have a fundamental framework that further enhances a learning environment that positions us to reach our aggressive student outcomes."



Press Release

November 18, 2025

to allow students more time with fewer distractions to focus on their studies, collaborate with their peers, and learn information from their teachers,” “And beyond, the Board also views this policy as better protecting our students and staff from unwanted access to communication or information.”

To see the revised policy in its entirety, [click HERE](#). To access all November 18, 2025, board meeting materials, please log on to <https://www.cmsk12.org/>, click the Board of Education menu, and then click Meeting Agendas and Policies. Questions can be directed to boardcomms@cms.k12.nc.us.