

USE OF CELLPHONES AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES BY STUDENTS

Recognizing the impact of student cellphone use on student mental health and achievement and the distractions cellphones present within the classroom, the Board prohibits student use of cellphones during the instructional day except:

1. if permitted under the building's comprehensive emergency management plan;
2. for student learning or to monitor or address a health concern if included in a student's individualized education program or plan, a 504 plan or other reason deemed appropriate by the Superintendent/designee to monitor or address a student health concern **or**
3. to monitor or address a health concern if the Board receives a written statement from the student's physician requiring such use.

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop procedures governing student use of cellphones that align with this policy.

Such procedures must be included in all student handbooks. Students violating District procedures or building regulations for use of cellphones and other electronic communications devices may have their phone or device confiscated and may be subject to discipline.

The District assumes no liability if a student's phone or electronic communications device is broken, lost or stolen. Notices of this policy are posted in a central location in every school building, in the student handbooks and posted in a prominent location on the District website.

(Adoption date: July 9, 1997)
(Revision date: May 21, 2002)
(Revision date: April 19, 2005)
(Revision date: July 25, 2024)
(Revision date: December 18, 2025)

LEGAL REFS.: 729 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 USC
ORC 3313.20, 3313.753, 5502.262, Chapter 3323

CROSS REFS.: AC Nondiscrimination
EBC - Emergency Management and Safety Plans
EDE Computer/On-Line Services (acceptable Use and Internet Safety)
JFC Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCEA Gangs
JFCF Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)
Student Handbooks

NOTE: House Bill 96 (2025) requires boards to adopt a policy prohibiting the use of cellular telephones by students during the instructional day no later than Jan. 1, 2026.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) defines “instructional day” as any period of time in which a student is expected to be in attendance and includes not only formal instruction time but also supervised activities, such as transitioning between classes, recess, meal periods, and field trips. Districts may choose to include this definition within their policy if clarity around what is meant by “instructional day” is beneficial for locally adopted policies.

The policy must be adopted at a public meeting (which is true of all Board policies) and posted on a prominent location of the District’s publicly accessible website.

THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY