

DECA Middle - Personal Electronic Device Policy 2026 - 2027

The objective of this policy is to strengthen DECA Middle's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission of preparing future college graduates today to become the leaders of our community tomorrow.

Our Personal Electronic Device policy for cell phones, smartwatches, and Bluetooth headphone/devices will focus on proactive steps to allow for increased focus during the school day.

I. Research

Research shows that student use of personal electronic devices in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones can distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

II. Our Policy

Students at DECA Middle may not be in possession of a personal electronic device (cellphone, Bluetooth headphone/device, smartwatch) during the school day (8:15 AM - 3:20 PM). Students may either:

- Leave these devices at home
- Turn in device(s) into the classroom lockbox, located in their homeroom upon arrival each morning.

If a student is found to be in possession of any of these devices during the school day, they will be out of compliance with this policy.

III. Exceptions

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.

A student may use a cell phone to monitor or address a health concern.

IV. Progressive Discipline for Policy Violations:

- 1st Violation:
 - Device(s) will be confiscated until the end of the school day. Device(s) will remain at school until the parent/guardian has spoken with an administrator. The student will receive a documented warning.
- 2nd Violation:
 - Device(s) will be confiscated for TWO DAYS and will only be returned to the parent after meeting with an administrator. The student will receive a behavior referral and an after-school detention.
- 3rd Violation:
 - Device(s) will be confiscated for ONE WEEK and will only be returned to the parent after meeting with an administrator. The student will receive a behavior referral and Friday Night School.
- Fourth offense and beyond will result in a 1-day suspension and the loss of privileges to bring personal electronics to school.

For any of these processes, parent/guardian(s) have a right to appeal to the Deputy Superintendent of DECA - Charles Bull.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Where will the cell phones be stored during the school day?

Each classroom will have a secured lock box that cell phones will be stored in at the start of homeroom. Phones will be distributed back to students at the end of the last class of the day.

How do I get in touch with my student(s) during school hours or if there is an emergency?

If you need to reach your child during school hours, contact the main office at DECA Middle at (937) 528 - 6808.