



WHY IS HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS MAKING THIS CHANGE?

Continuing in the 2026-2027 school year, HCS will implement distraction-free learning environments in accordance with Georgia's Distraction-Free Education Act to help students stay focused on learning. Research shows that limiting personal electronic devices during the school day can improve:



ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT



STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT



CLASSROOM
PARTICIPATION



SOCIAL
INTERACTION



SCHOOL SAFETY
& COMMUNICATION

OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE: MORE LEARNING. FEWER DISTRACTIONS.

WHAT DEVICES ARE INCLUDED?

The policy applies to personal electronic devices, including:



Cell phones



Smartwatches



Earbuds/headphones



Tablets



Personal laptops



Devices used for texting, calling, internet access, gaming, recording, or social media.

WHAT ARE STUDENTS EXPECTED TO DO?

During the instructional day, personal electronic devices **MUST BE:**



OFF



OUT OF SIGHT



UNUSED



Students may use school-issued technology when directed by their teacher.

ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS?

Yes. Students may use a personal device if:



It is required by an IEP, 504 Plan, or medical accommodation.



A teacher specifically authorizes its use for instruction.



School administration approves its use for a special circumstance.

HOW CAN I REACH MY CHILD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?



If you need to contact your child during school hours:

CALL YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL OFFICE

- School staff will make sure important messages are delivered promptly.
- Likewise, if a student needs to contact a parent or guardian, school staff will assist them.



WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT VIOLATES THE POLICY?

Students who use personal electronic devices during the instructional day may receive consequences consistent with the Henry County Schools Code of Conduct, including:



Reminder or verbal warning



Parent/guardian notification



Device confiscation



Discipline referral



Additional disciplinary action when appropriate

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP



Talk about the importance of staying focused during class.



Encourage your child to keep devices put away during school.



Review the expectations together before the first day of school.



Contact the school office if you need to communicate during the school day.



**TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP THE
FOCUS ON LEARNING.**

Henry County Schools appreciates the partnership of students, families, and staff as we create classrooms where every student can learn, participate, and succeed.

