

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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DRAFT

Student Cell Phone & Personal Electronic Devices Policy Recommendation

Board of Education

July 29, 2026

Presented by:

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Michigan House Bill 4141 and Senate Bill 495

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the board of a school district or the board of directors of a public school academy shall implement a wireless communications device policy that prohibits students from using a wireless communications device on school grounds during instructional time.

Source: [Michigan Legislature](#)

PURPOSE

Establish clear expectations for possession and use of cell phones and personal electronic devices during the school day.

RATIONALE

Excessive or inappropriate device use can interfere with instruction, student engagement, academic achievement, school safety, and student well-being.

GOAL

Promote academic focus and positive social interaction while allowing reasonable flexibility for emergency needs, consistently across all AAPS schools.

Grade-Level Expectations

Elementary (K–5)

- Devices powered off or silenced
- Stored in backpacks
- Not visible or audible during the school day

Middle School (6–8)

- Devices powered off or silenced
- Stored in lockers or backpacks
- Not visible, audible, or used at any time during the school day
- May be used outside before 1st bell & after dismissal to arrange transportation

High School (9–12)

- Silenced and put away during instructional time
- Teachers may authorize use for educational purposes
- Permitted during non-instructional times unless restricted by school

Engagement Process

Principals gathered input from staff and students to shape this policy through multiple channels:

STAFF ENGAGEMENT

- Feedback gathered from each building staff
 - Surveys
 - Structured discussions held at staff meetings
 - Meetings consist of all teachers and itinerant staff in attendance
 - Teacher and staff input was collected and helped shape the cell phone and personal device guidelines
 - Staff shared concerns about safety, distraction, instructional impact, and equity of device use
- Executive Directors met with principal leaders during monthly level council meetings last spring
 - All principal leaders attend level council and collaborated with their colleagues on the draft

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Principals elicited student input across grade levels by doing one of the following:
 - Met with their Student Council, Student Equity Team, Student Focus Groups, or Student Leadership Team
 - Student surveys
- Students voiced perspectives on focus, safety, and fairness

Engagement Process

Principals collaborated with their principal colleagues to shape this policy:

Principal Engagement

- Level Council Meetings
- Reviewed and discussed schools' current and draft procedures for their level
- Added suggestions, revisions, and input based on student/staff feedback of current guidelines

Recommendation

BOARD RECOMMENDATION

The administration respectfully recommends that the Board of Education adopt Policy 5900 Student Personal Electronic Devices.

This policy was developed with direct input from students and staff across all school levels and reflects a balanced, equity-centered approach to managing device use in our schools.

Hyperlink to draft policy 



BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

Title: **Student Personal Electronic Devices**

Code: **5900**

Section: 5000: Student

The Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education recognizes that personal electronic devices can support communication and learning when used appropriately. At the same time, excessive or inappropriate use of cell phones and other personal devices during the school day can interfere with instruction, student engagement, academic achievement, school safety, and student well-being.

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear expectations for the possession and use of cell phones and personal electronic devices during the school day and at school-sponsored activities. Administrative regulations supporting this policy are designed to promote academic focus and positive social interaction and allow reasonable flexibility for instructional and emergency situations while maintaining consistent expectations across all Ann Arbor Public Schools.

Key Policy Provisions

Instructional Use

High Schools- Used during non instructional times (hall, lunchrooms, etc.)

Elementary & Middle Schools- Devices are put away during the school day (bell-to-bell)

Privacy & Recording

No recording of students or staff without permission. Strictly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, health offices, and counseling spaces.

Confiscation

Secured by staff; returned at end of day. Repeated violations may require Parent/caregiver retrieval.

Accommodation Exceptions

Students with documented accommodations (IEP, 504, health plan) may use devices as outlined in their individual plans.

Safety & Emergencies

Administrators may authorize or restrict device use during emergencies. Parent/caregiver encouraged to contact the school office for urgent communication.

Consequences

Progressive discipline:

- verbal warning
- confiscation
- parent/caregiver notification
- loss of privileges
- caregiver conference
- device management plan

Next Steps

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

July/August 2026

Board briefing and adoption of Policy 5900

Finalize administrative regulations

August 2026

Policy & expectations communicated to students, staff and families

August 31, 2026

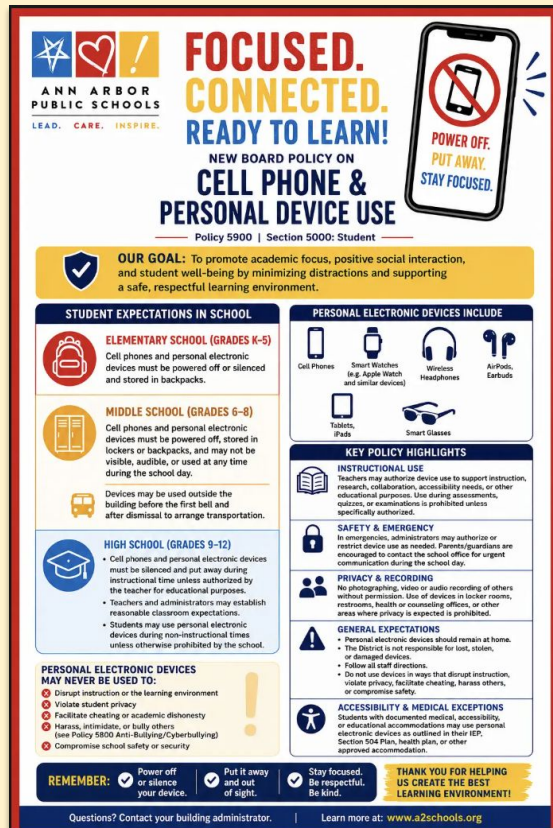
Full implementation at the start of the 2026–27 school year

May/June 2027

Annual review

Communication to Students, Staff and Parents/Caregivers

Stakeholder Communication



- Back to School Communications to families
- Parent Teacher Student (PTSO/PTO) meeting with parents/caregivers
- Fall Curriculum Nights
- Staff Meetings /Building PD
- Student & Parent Weekly/Monthly Bulletins
- [Flyers posted throughout schools \(translated\)](#)
- Student Handbook
- Family Handbook (elementary)
- School & District Website
- Superintendent's Communication
- Rights & Responsibilities Handbook



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