



Wireless Communications Device Guidelines

Governed by Board Policy 2006

Effective Aug. 24, 2026

Overview

Michigan House Bill 4141 (Public Act 2 of 2026) amended the Revised School Code to require the board of a school district or the board of directors of a public school academy to implement a wireless communications device policy that prohibits students from using such a device on school grounds during instructional time. Exemptions include:

- Medically necessary devices.
- District-owned devices, such as school-issued tablets and laptops.
- Devices designated by the district to be used for instructional purposes.
- Devices used for special education programming.
- Devices provided as an accommodation to a student as required under section 504 of Title V of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or as part of an individualized education plan under Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- Lesson-specific academic assignments, at the limited and direct discretion of a classroom teacher.
- Emergency situations, as described in an emergency operations plan, although the use of a wireless communications device must not interfere with school emergency protocols or the actions of first responders or endanger students or faculty.

Definition of a wireless communications device

- **Wireless communications device** refers to an electronic device capable of text messaging, voice communication, entertainment, navigation, accessing the internet, sending and receiving photos and videos, or producing email. A basic telephone would not be considered a wireless communications device.
- **Wearable technology** includes the use of smartwatches (e.g., Apple Watches, Gizmo Watches, Garmin smartwatches, etc.), personal Bluetooth earbuds/headphones, and artificial intelligence eyewear.
- **Basic telephone** refers to a device primarily used for voice calling that cannot support third-party applications, except those preinstalled, and does not support access to internet platforms via applications or web browsers.
- **School grounds** refer to a building, playing field, or property used for functions and events sponsored by a school, but would not include a building used primarily for adult education or college extension courses.



Wireless Communications Device Guidelines By Learning Level

Elementary School:

- Students are *not* permitted to use a wireless personal communication device during school day.
- Students are *not* permitted to use wearable technology during the school day.

Middle School:

- Students are *not* permitted to use a wireless communication device during the school day, unless permitted by the teacher for instructional use only.
- Students are *not* permitted to use wearable technology during the school day.
- Students are permitted to use a wireless communication device before and after school.

High School:

- Students are *not* permitted to use a wireless communication device during classroom instruction, unless permitted by the teacher for educational use only.
- Students are *not* permitted to use wearable technology during the school day.
- Students are permitted to use a wireless communication device during passing time, lunch, and before and after school.

Disciplinary actions

For students who do not comply with the Rochester Community Schools wireless communications device policy, the following disciplinary actions will be taken:

- **First offense:** A verbal warning or a directive to put the device away.
- **Second offense:** Confiscation of the communication device by the teacher or administration until the end of the school day.
- **Repeated offenses:** Confiscation, where a parent or guardian is required to physically come to the school to retrieve the device, a parent-teacher conference, and/or a Code of Conduct infraction.