

Christina School District Policy

Section 2000:	Students
Title:	Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices
Policy #:	02.39
Status:	Final
Last Revised:	May 13, 2026
Previously Reviewed:	New Policy

PURPOSE

To establish clear guidelines for the possession and use of personal electronic devices (PEDs) by students within the Christina School District (CSD). This policy aims to minimize distractions and disruptions to the educational process, ensure a safe, orderly, and focused learning environment, promote responsible technology use and digital citizenship, and maintain a respectful school climate. It is developed in response to Delaware [Senate Bill 106](#), which mandates policies to limit student cell phone use during instructional time.

ISSUE

The ubiquitous nature of personal electronic devices presents challenges within K-12 educational settings. Unmanaged use of PEDs during school hours can hinder student learning, negatively impact the school environment, facilitate cyberbullying and academic dishonesty, and impede effective instruction. While PEDs are part of modern life and valued for communication, their presence requires clear rules to maintain focus on teaching and learning. CSD's investment in a 1:1 Technology Initiative provides students with district-owned devices for educational purposes, reducing the instructional need for personal devices. This policy seeks to balance the benefits and drawbacks by setting clear expectations for PED use. Students are expected to use cell phones and other personal electronic devices responsibly and in a manner that does not disrupt instruction, compromise safety, or interfere with the orderly operation of the school.

POLICY

I. Definitions

- **Cell Phone:** A portable electronic device used for communication through voice calls, text messages, or internet access. (Delaware Senate Bill 106 (SB 106), 152nd General Assembly.)
- **Personal Electronic Device (PED):** Includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, smart glasses, tablets (not issued by the school), non-school laptops, portable

music/media players, handheld gaming devices, cameras, and any privately owned electronic device capable of communication, internet access, data storage, computing, recording, or connecting external hardware (like non-school headphones/earbuds). District-issued devices under the 1:1 initiative are governed primarily by the Technology Initiative Agreement and Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

- **Instructional Time:** Any time during the school day when students are scheduled for learning activities under school personnel supervision, including classes, labs, libraries, assemblies, designated field trip components, guidance sessions, and testing; educator-led time dedicated to teaching and learning.
- **Non-Instructional Time:** Any time during the school day when students are not actively engaged in educator-led teaching or learning activities, including but not limited to transitions between classes, passing periods, lunch, recess, arrival and dismissal, and other unstructured or supervisory periods. During non-instructional time, students remain under school supervision but are not participating in direct academic instruction.
- **School Day:** The period from a student's required arrival (at school or bus stop) until the official dismissal time.
- **School Property:** Any property owned, leased, or used by CSD, including buildings, grounds, buses, and locations of school-sponsored events.
- **Confiscation:** Temporary possession of a student's PED by staff due to a policy violation. Does not automatically permit searching device content.
- **Reasonable Suspicion:** The legal standard (per *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*) required for a school official to search the content of a student's PED, based on specific, objective facts suggesting the search will find evidence of a violation of law or a significant school rule.
- **Unauthorized use of an electronic device:** Means students who engage in non-educational activities in the school environment, including capturing, distributing, displaying, sharing, or posting of inappropriate images, videos, movies, or music from personal devices. The definition also includes engaging in social media, texting, playing games, or streaming that disrupts the learning environment. (14 DE Admin. Code 614)

II. Rules for Use During the School Day

- **Default Rule:** Unless explicitly permitted by a teacher/administrator for a specific, curriculum-related educational purpose, all PEDs must be turned off/silenced and stored completely out of sight during the school day. Acceptable storage includes school-issued storage containers, backpacks, purses, or lockers, not pockets or desks. This standard minimizes potential distractions. District-issued 1:1 devices are the primary tools for technology use during instruction. See Section VI for exceptions. Cell phone use is prohibited during instructional time unless explicitly authorized by an educator or permitted under an approved exception. See Section IV for acceptable storage options.
- **Smartwatches:** Must be placed in a mode disabling notifications/communication (e.g., airplane mode) and should adhere to the "out of sight" rule or not be used for non-instructional purposes.

- **Headphones/Earbuds:** Personal headphones/earbuds connected to a PED are prohibited unless explicitly authorized by a teacher for an educational activity or for medical reasons.
- **Smart Glasses:** Wearable, artificial intelligence-powered frames that include cameras, microphones, and speakers are prohibited unless explicitly authorized by a teacher or administrator.
- **Violations:** Any visible or audible PED (including vibrations) during instructional time, unless permitted, constitutes a violation, and disciplinary actions will follow the District's Student Manual.
- **Responsible Use Requirements, if an exception is granted:**
 - Audio must use headphones/earbuds and not be audible to others.
 - Use must not disrupt activities or supervision.
 - Prohibited Uses (Section V) apply at all times.
 - Students must comply immediately with staff's reasonable requests to put away PEDs.

IV. Storage Requirements

- Acceptable storage includes school-issued storage containers, backpacks, purses, or lockers, not pockets or desks
- **School-issued Storage:** Students shall secure devices in magnetic or locking pouches during the school day. Devices may be unlocked only at designated times or locations by a staff member.
- **Student Responsibility:** Students are solely responsible for the security of their PEDs.
District Non-Liability: Students bring PEDs to school at their own risk. CSD is not responsible or liable for the loss, theft, damage, or destruction of any PED.

V. Prohibited Uses

At all times, the Student Manual will be in effect for all violations of the policy.

- Violating Academic Integrity (cheating, plagiarism).
- Bullying, Harassment, Threats, Impersonation (Cyberbullying).
- Misuse of social media platforms that violates the Student Code of Conduct.
- Creating, sending, accessing, or storing obscene, pornographic, illegal, or inappropriate content.
- Unauthorized audio/video recording or photography of others without explicit consent; recording is strictly prohibited in private areas (restrooms, locker rooms, health offices). Staff permission is required for recordings during instructional time/school activities.
- Disrupting the educational environment or school operations.
- Engaging in or arranging illegal activities.
- Violating the CSD Acceptable Use Policy, Student Code of Conduct, or other Board policies.
- Attempting to bypass the District internet filters.

VI. Exceptions

The school shall establish and communicate a clear procedure by which a student, parent, or guardian may request and obtain approval for an applicable exception. The procedure shall include documentation requirements and identify the staff member or administrator responsible for reviewing and granting such requests.

Exceptions to limitations may be granted under specific circumstances:

- **Documented Medical Needs:** For monitoring a medical condition, with current documentation from a healthcare provider on file and approved by the administration. Use is limited to necessary medical functions.
- **IEP/504 Accommodations:** As specified in a student's current IEP or 504 Plan for necessary accommodation or assistive technology.
- Accommodations for language-access support for multilingual learners.
- **Emergency Situations:** For genuine emergencies posing an imminent threat to health/safety, students/staff should follow the guidance of the teacher/administrator, so as not to impede the efforts of first responders. Non-urgent matters are not emergencies.
- **Approved Educational Purposes:** Explicit, temporary permission from a teacher/administrator for a specific instructional task.
- **Other Administrator-Approved Exceptions:** Rare, unique, time-limited exceptions approved in advance and documented by building administration.

VII. Communication and Training

- **Dissemination:** This policy will be included in the Student Manual, posted on District/school websites, and reviewed with students annually. Parents/guardians will be informed via standard communication channels (email, district website, etc.). The policy will be provided to the Delaware Department of Education as required.
- **Staff Training:** CSD will provide training to all staff on policy specifics, rationale, enforcement procedures, exceptions, and equity considerations.
- **Student Education:** The District will integrate education on responsible technology use, digital citizenship, online safety, and cyberbullying awareness into the classroom practices.

VIII. Progressive Discipline for Violations

To ensure consistency across the District, the following progressive consequences may include:

- Administrative conference
- Parent/Guardian conference
- Administrative Action according to the Student Manual
- Restitution for broken storage pouches

IX. Ensuring Adherence to District Policy

- The Christina School District will teach appropriate use of personal electronic devices to promote positive behavior and increase student academic engagement.
- School teams will monitor student discipline data on an ongoing basis (minimum annually) and consider amendments to instructional strategies related to PED use, training, and/or the overall PED policy.

- This policy shall be developed and periodically reviewed with input from educators, students, families, and relevant school staff. Schools may use surveys, advisory groups, student councils, or other feedback mechanisms to inform policy development and guide implementation.

X. Liability Disclaimer

Students bring PEDs to school at their own risk. The Christina School District is not responsible or liable for the loss, theft, damage, or destruction of any PED brought onto school property, to school activities, or stored in any location.

REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy shall be reviewed periodically (e.g., every three years or as needed) by the District and the Board of Education's Policy Committee, according to established guidelines. Amendments may be considered based on implementation data, feedback, technological changes, or legal updates. Reports regarding PED use are available upon request.

REFERENCES

Delaware [Senate Bill 106](#)
[Children's Internet Protection Act \(CIPA\)](#)
[Family Educational Rights and Protection Act](#)
[Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)