

Negative Impacts | ***Legislative Updates***

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices



What are "Cell Phones" and "Personal Electronic Devices?"

Cell Phone:

- A personal device capable of making calls, transmitting pictures or video, or sending or receiving messages through electronic means.



Personal Electronic Device:

- Any personal device capable of connecting to a smartphone, the Internet, a cellular or Wi-Fi network, or directly connects to another similar device.

Examples:

- Cell Phone
- Airpods
- Wireless Headphones
- Laptops
- iPad/Tablets
- eReaders (Kindle/Nook)

How do Cell Phones and PEDs affect Students and Learning?



Major Impacts:

The "Brain Drain"

- A study in the Journal of the Association for Consumer Research found that cognitive capacity was significantly reduced when a smartphone was within sight compared to when it was entirely out of sight (Ward et al., 2017).

Impaired Long-Term Retention

- A Rutgers study showed that device use in the classroom correlated to lower performance on end-of-term exams. The split attention prevented information moving from students' short-term working memory to long-term retention (Buccino, 2018).

Social/Emotional Erosion

- Students looking at screens during the school day reduces opportunities for authentic human interaction, contributing to increased anxiety and social isolation.

What Does the Data Say?

The consensus among researchers is not that technology itself is detrimental, but that ***unstructured, unguided screen exposure*** acts as a constant tax on student attention. When schools transition to focused environments, data consistently shows an immediate rebound in classroom engagement, peer socialization, and overall assessment scores.

What Does the Law Say?

State law (VA Code § 22.1-79.3:1) mandates ***"bell-to-bell"*** bans on student cell phone and personal electronic device usage. Devices must be ***turned off and stored away*** for the entire day. This includes in ***classes, hallways, and lunch*** periods.



Classrooms



Hallways



Lunch

Together, WE are Rockbridge!

RCHS Electronic Device Enforcement Matrix

First Offense	• Reviewal of Electronic Device Policy with student • Verbal reminder/warning to student for them to place the device in their backpack/book bag. **This initial warning will be given to all students in their Class Meetings**
Second Offense	• Device will be confiscated • Parent/Guardian contacted by administrator. • Device returned to student at the end of the school day.
Third Offense	• Device will be confiscated • Parent/Guardian contacted by administrator • Device **will not** be returned to student at the end of the school day. • Parent/Guardian will need to come pick up the device and meet with administration to review the Electronic Device Policy and discuss disciplinary consequences for future infractions
Fourth Offense	• Device will be confiscated • Parent/Guardian contacted by administrator. • Device **will not** be returned to student at the end of the school day. • Parent/Guardian will need to come pick up the device and meet with administration to discuss disciplinary consequences
Subsequent Offenses	• Device will be confiscated • Parent/Guardian contacted by administrator • Device **will not** be returned to student at the end of the school day • Parent/Guardian will need to come pick up the device and meet with administration • Disciplinary consequences will be assigned, escalating with each subsequent offense