USE OF CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

The District prohibits students from using wireless communication devices during instructional hours and class time.

As used in this policy, "wireless communication device" means a portable electronic device capable of transmitting voice, text, or data, including but not limited to a: 1) cellular phone, smartphone, or smartwatch; 2) tablet computer; 3) laptop computer; or 4) gaming device; 5) smart glasses.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a school principal may grant approval for possession and use of a wireless communication device by a student during class time or instructional hours for the following reasons:

- Health, safety, or emergency reasons.
- An individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Service Agreement.
- Classroom or instructional-related activities, under the supervision of the classroom teacher.
- Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

Rules related to student use of electronic wireless communication devices during non-instructional hours may differ between the schools, locations within schools, times of day, grade level, programs, and activities, and individual students may have device privileges further limited as a consequence for violation of school rules. School principals, with the approval of the **Superintendent or designee** and in compliance with **District** policy and administrative regulations, shall make these rules regarding student use of wireless communication devices during non-instructional hours within school buildings and programs, on school property, in school vehicles, and/or while students are attending school-sponsored activities.

Other than as set forth herein, nothing in this policy prohibits the complete prohibition of student use or possession of wireless communication devices during the school day and/or at times during which the **District** has supervisory authority over students, or a school requirement that wireless communication devices be stored in a designated storage area inaccessible to students. School principals shall notify students, staff and parents/guardians of applicable rules for the use of wireless communication devices within their buildings and programs.

Neither **the District** nor any school rule shall prohibit students from using wireless communication devices for:

- text-to-speech, speech-to-text, or other assistive technologies that aid in disability accessibility communication, navigation or learning; or
- use of the device for a medical necessity, an accommodation for a student with a disability, or as provided in a student's individualized education program or 504 plan.

Violations of this policy or any school rule related to wireless communication devices shall result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the wireless communication device. In such an event, school officials may determine whether to withhold the device and not return it until a conference has been held with the student's parent/guardian. School officials who confiscate a wireless communication device for violation of this policy or school rules shall not search the contents of the device without reasonable suspicion that a search will reveal evidence of a violation of school rules or the law, and then only in compliance with the student's constitutional or other rights and as provided by policy.

Loss or Damage (Limitation of Liability)
Personal electronic devices are frequently lost or stolen. As with other personal property brought to school or school-sponsored activities, **the District, its schools, and its personnel are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged electronic devices.**

Students who possess or use such devices while on District property or while attending school or school-sponsored activities do so at their own risk. The District, its schools, and its personnel assume no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for:

- Any damage, destruction, or loss of such devices.
- The loss of or damage to the contents or data contained therein.
- The loss, destruction, or damage to personal electronic devices or data resulting from or in connection with any official confiscation or search of such devices conducted pursuant to this policy.

Schools shall provide annual, developmentally appropriate digital citizenship instruction to students in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), with topics including, at a minimum, the effects of screen time on children and the risks associated with social media.

This policy shall be published on the **District** website.
Adopted: August 11, 2026
LEGAL REF.: 22-1-17 NMSA
CROSS REF.:

- *IJNDB - Use of Technology Resources in Instruction*
- *IJNDB-R - Use of Technology Resources in Instruction (Regulation)*
- *JIC - Student Conduct*
- *JIH - Student Interrogations, Searches, and Arrests*
- *JK - Student Discipline*