



Santa Maria Joint Union
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Personal Electronic Device District Policy

“Off & Away All Day (*Except Lunch*)” Policy



When Does This Change Take Effect?

The new policy begins in the 2026–2027 school year.



Our Goal is Simple:

To minimize distractions so we can dedicate our time to what truly counts—academic growth, real-world social connections, and making the absolute most of the high school experience.

Policy Description

The policy titled "Off and Away except Lunch" emphasizes the importance of minimizing distractions in the educational environment by requiring students to power down and store away **cell phones, smartwatches**, and other **personal electronic devices**, including AI-enabled personal devices, during the instructional day, which includes passing periods. The only exception to this rule is *during the lunch break*, providing students with a designated time to check and use their devices. This approach aims to enhance focus and engagement in classrooms, promoting a more productive learning atmosphere. By curbing the potential disruptions posed by these devices, the policy seeks to foster a more attentive and interactive educational experience for all students.

Legal Framework: Under California Education Code Sections 48901.5 and 48901.7 (enacted via Assembly Bill 272), the Governing Board maintains full legal authority to restrict or ban mobile devices while students are on school grounds or under the direct supervision of district staff.

Consequences for Policy Violations

First Infraction	The device will be confiscated by a staff member and turned into an administrator. The student may pick up their device at the end of the school day.
Second Infraction	The device will be confiscated, and the parent or guardian must meet with the principal or designee to retrieve it. The student may receive Intervention services.
Third Infraction	The device will be confiscated, and the parent or guardian must retrieve it. The student will receive intervention services and may be required to check the device into the office daily for one week.
Fourth and Subsequent Infractions	The device will be confiscated, and the student may be required to check the device into the office daily for one month or as specified by administration. Additional disciplinary actions may apply.

Exceptions/Limited Use



- In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
- If it is determined by a licensed physician and surgeon to be essential for the health of the pupil, and the use of which is limited to purposes related to the health of the pupil.
- When possession or use is required by the student's IEP or 504 plan.
- When a teacher or administrator of the school district, county office of education, or charter school grants permission to a pupil to possess or use a smartphone, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator.