

Calvert County Public Schools
1305 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

**Policy Statement #3175 (Students) of the Board of Education
Regarding Cell Phones in Schools**

I. Purpose

- A. Support effective teaching and learning by reducing distractions during the instructional day.
- B. Promote student engagement, interpersonal communication, and a positive school climate.
- C. Establish consistent, systemwide expectations for student use of personal electronic communication devices from the arrival to dismissal.
- D. Ensure compliance with the Joanne C. Benson Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act and guidance issued by the Maryland State Department of Education.
- E. Protect student rights by ensuring required accommodations and legally mandated exceptions.
- F. Ensure that enforcement of this policy is progressive, instructional, and aligned with the Code of Student Conduct.

II. Definitions

- A. Personal Electronic Communication Device - Any privately owned device capable of transmitting, receiving, accessing, or recording information electronically, including but not limited to cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, earbuds, SMART Glasses, and similar technologies. School issued instructional devices are excluded.
- B. School Day – The time in which students enter the building at the beginning of the day until students exit the building at the end of the day including student arrival, student dismissal, instructional time, lunch, recess, passing periods, and assemblies.

III. Policy Statement

- A. The Calvert County Board of Education is committed to maintaining safe, orderly, and academically focused learning environments that support student achievement and well-being. The Board establishes clear expectations for student use of and storage of personal electronic communication devices during the school day to minimize instructional disruption, promote positive school climate, and support meaningful student engagement.
- B. Student possession and use of personal electronic communication devices during the school day shall be limited during the school day except as required by law. Permitted exceptions include:

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1. Use of a documented reasonable accommodations in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan related specifically to the student's disability,
2. Use necessary to address a documented health issue,
3. Use to access language translation tools to ensure educational equity for multilingual students when school-issued electronic communication devices are not available or insufficient for this purpose, and
4. Use for caregiving responsibilities, as approved by the principal.

All permitted use shall be consistent with this policy and applicable law.

IV. Delegation of Authority

- A. The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative procedures to implement this policy in accordance with all local policies and local, state and federal laws and regulations and to communicate this policy and accompanying procedures to all relevant parties. The Superintendent will share changes to the administrative procedures with the Board prior to those changes being implemented.

V. Exceptions

- A. There are no exceptions to this policy. However, the Board, by majority vote, may temporarily suspend all or part of this policy. Suspension of all or part of this policy, however, in no way relieves the Board of its obligation to comply with the pertinent local, state and federal laws and regulations or the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education.

VI. Review

- A. This policy will be reviewed at the end of three years, or sooner, if approved by majority vote of the Board of Education in public session.

VII. Effective Date

- A. This policy is effective August 13, 2026.

Citations

State Law: HB 525 Joanne C. Benson Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act; §7-306(c) of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

State Reg.: COMAR 13A.08.01.11

Federal Law:

Adm. Reg.:

Neg. Agr.:

Other Citation: Calvert County Public Schools Code of Student Conduct

Related Policies:

#3162 (Students) of the Board of Education on Student Conduct

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