



A Family & Student Guide to Updated Board Policy 237: *Electronic Devices*

**Millville Area Junior/Senior High School
Millville Elementary School
2026-2027 School Year**

"Focused on Learning. Supporting Students. Partnering with Families."

The Millville Area School District is committed to providing classrooms and schools where students can **learn, engage, build positive relationships, and participate fully in their educational experience.**

As we begin implementation of the updated Board Policy 237: Electronic Devices, we recognize that this represents a significant change from previous practice for many students and families. Our goal is to make the expectations clear, support students as they adjust, and work collaboratively with families to ensure a successful transition.

WHAT DOES "BELL TO BELL" MEAN?

Under the updated MASD Board Policy 237, student cell phone access is prohibited during the school day from the opening bell through the dismissal bell.

Students may possess a cell phone.

Students are permitted to bring a cell phone to school. However, once the school day begins, students are expected to:

TURN IT OFF. SECURE IT. LEAVE IT IN THEIR ASSIGNED LOCKER.

Students should secure their cell phone in their assigned locker, where it can remain safely stored throughout the school day.

Students may not access or use their cell phone during the school day.

This expectation applies throughout the school day and is intended to establish a clear and consistent environment focused on teaching, learning, and positive student engagement.

WHY ARE WE MAKING THIS CHANGE?

Our schools are at their best when students are **present, engaged, connected, and ready to learn.**

Limiting access to cell phones during the school day is intended to:

- Reduce distractions from teaching and learning;
- Support greater student attention and classroom engagement;
- Encourage healthy face-to-face interaction among students;
- Reduce disruptions associated with social media, messaging, and notifications;
- Support positive school climates; and
- Help teachers maintain learning environments where every student has the opportunity to succeed.

This policy is not intended to prevent families from communicating with their children. Rather, it establishes appropriate boundaries for personal electronic devices during instructional school hours.

NEED TO REACH YOUR CHILD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

We understand that families sometimes need to communicate with their children during school hours.

When an important or time-sensitive need arises, parents and guardians should contact the appropriate school office. School personnel will assist in communicating necessary information to your child.

Likewise, when students have an appropriate need to contact home during the school day, school personnel can assist them.

Our schools remain committed to ensuring that families and students can communicate when circumstances require it.

MEDICAL NECESSITY & STUDENT SUPPORT PLANS

The updated policy recognizes that some students may have a documented medical necessity requiring access to a cell phone during the school day.

A student with an IEP or Section 504 Service Plan may maintain access to a cell phone when the student's plan specifically identifies cell phone access as a necessary accommodation related to a documented medical need.

Does your child have a medical need that may require cell phone access?

Please communicate with your child's school administration.

The District will work with families through the appropriate **IEP or Section 504 process** to determine whether an accommodation is necessary and, when appropriate, document the accommodation within the student's educational plan.

We encourage families to contact us proactively so that appropriate supports can be established for the student.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT ACCESSES A CELL PHONE?

We recognize that adjusting to a new expectation can take time. Our initial emphasis will be on **teaching the expectation, reminding students, communicating with families, and helping students develop habits that support compliance.**

When a student accesses a cell phone during the school day in violation of Board Policy 237, the District will use progressive discipline in accordance with applicable school policies.

Expectations will be implemented consistently across grades K–12, with appropriate consideration given to students' ages and developmental differences.

1ST VIOLATION: WARNING & REDIRECTION

Our first response is to remind, redirect, and reinforce the expectation.

If a teacher or staff member observes unauthorized cell phone access:

1. The student will be directed to remove the cell phone from the instructional environment and secure it in their assigned locker.
2. The supervising teacher/staff member will submit a disciplinary referral to administration.
3. The incident will be documented as a “warning.”
4. The student's parent/guardian will be notified of the warning.

Goal: Help the student understand the expectation and prevent another occurrence.

2ND VIOLATION: DETENTION & DEVICE HELD UNTIL DISMISSAL

If a student again accesses a cell phone during the school day following the first warning:

1. The supervising teacher/staff member will collect the cell phone.
2. The cell phone will be provided to the building principal.
3. The teacher/staff member will submit a disciplinary referral through Sapphire.

4. The principal will assign a Level 2 disciplinary consequence, beginning with one detention.
5. The cell phone will remain with the principal for the remainder of the school day and will be returned to the student at dismissal.

Holding the device until dismissal helps prevent additional unauthorized access and disruption during the remainder of the school day.

Goal: Reinforce the expectation and provide an increased level of accountability following a repeated violation.

3RD VIOLATION: PARENT/GUARDIAN DEVICE PICKUP & PROGRESSIVE CONSEQUENCE

If a student continues to access a cell phone during the school day after previous Level 1 and Level 2 responses:

1. The teacher/staff member observing the violation will collect the cell phone.
2. A disciplinary referral will be submitted through Sapphire.
3. The cell phone will be provided to the building principal.
4. The device will not be returned directly to the student.
5. The cell phone may be returned only to the student's parent or guardian.
6. The student will receive a progressive disciplinary consequence beginning with a double detention.

Goal: Engage the student, family, and school together when previous interventions have not resulted in compliance.

WHAT ABOUT ADDITIONAL VIOLATIONS?

Students who continue to violate the cell phone expectations after the first three violations will be subject to progressive disciplinary consequences in accordance with applicable District policies.

The District's objective is not simply to impose consequences. We want students to make successful choices, understand expectations, and maintain their focus on learning.

School administrators will work with students and families when patterns of non-compliance develop.

AN EASY WAY TO REMEMBER:

BELL TO BELL = CELL PHONE-FREE

Before the opening bell:

Secure your phone in your assigned locker.

During the school day:

Focus on learning, relationships, activities, and being present.

After the dismissal bell:

Retrieve your phone from your locker.

BRING IT. SECURE IT. LEARN WITHOUT DISTRACTIONS.

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP:

Families are important partners in making this transition successful. Parents and guardians can help by:

- Discussing the new expectations with their child before the school year begins;
- Reinforcing that cell phones should remain secured in the student's assigned locker throughout the school day;
- Avoiding calls, texts, and messages to students' personal devices during school hours;
- Contacting the school office when an important message needs to reach a student;
- Encouraging students to respond appropriately when redirected by a teacher or staff member; and
- Contacting school administration if their child has a documented medical need that may require an accommodation.

Your partnership will make a meaningful difference as students adjust to this new expectation.

OUR COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS & FAMILIES

We understand that cell phones have become an important part of everyday life and that a bell-to-bell restriction represents a meaningful change for students and families.

For that reason, implementation will be grounded in clear communication, consistency, student support, family partnership, and developmentally appropriate responses.

We ask for everyone's patience and cooperation as our students establish new routines.

For questions regarding Board Policy 237: *Electronic Devices*, medical accommodations, or implementation of the new cell phone expectations, please contact your child's building administration.

Together, we can create school environments in which students spend less time responding to screens and notifications and more time learning, thinking, creating, communicating, and connecting with the people around them.

**Together, we can help every student be present, engaged, safe,
and ready to learn.**

Stronger TOGETHER...Quaker STRONG!

