STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Possession of Telecommunications or Other Electronic Devices

House Bill 1481 mandates that all public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools adopt a written policy prohibiting students from using personal communication devices during the school day. This includes:

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches
- Tablets
- Headphones/Earbuds
- Any other electronic devices capable of telecommunication or digital communication

Students are allowed to bring personal communication devices to school, but they must remain powered off, stored in an acceptable location, and never visible during school hours, unless given explicit permission from a school staff member.

Exceptions are permitted for students with documented medical needs, disabilities under Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Section 504 plans, or legal or safety obligations. Devices issued by the school for instructional purposes are not subject to the prohibition.

● The use of any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at school-related or school-sponsored events.
● If a student uses or displays a personal communications device during the school day, the device will be confiscated. See Failure to Comply with Prohibited Electronic Devices Policy (below) for additional sanctions.
● Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE for more information.]
● Disciplinary actions for violations may be administered in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.
● The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen telecommunications devices.

Adopted 2024

Failure to Comply with Prohibited Electronic Devices Policy

- 1st offense
    - The device will be confiscated and may only be returned to the parent or guardian
- 2nd offense and subsequent offenses
    - The device will be confiscated and may only be returned to the parent or guardian. Additional sanctions will be assigned to the student by an administrator.

Adopted 2024

Parent FAQ: Possession of Telecommunications or Other Electronic Devices at School

1. What does House Bill 1481 require regarding student use of electronic devices?

House Bill 1481 mandates that students are not allowed to use personal communication devices during the school day in public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.

2. What types of devices are covered by this policy?

The policy applies to all personal devices capable of telecommunication or digital communication, including:

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches
- Personal Laptops/Tablets
- Headphones/Earbuds
- Any device capable of transmitting, receiving, or storing data.

3. When exactly are devices not allowed?

Devices are prohibited from the moment the first bell rings to begin the school day until the final bell rings to dismiss students.
During this time, personal devices must:

- Be powered off
- Be stored in an acceptable location (e.g., backpack)
- Not be visible or used, unless a school staff member gives explicit permission

4. Can my child bring a phone or device to school?

Yes. Students may bring personal devices to school, but they must follow the rules stated above and keep devices off and out of sight during the school day.

Devices issued by the school for instructional purposes are not restricted by this policy.

5. What happens if a student uses or displays a device during the school day?

The device will be confiscated immediately. Disciplinary action will depend on how many times the policy has been violated:

6. What does Forney ISD consider to be “use” of a personal electronic device?

"Forney ISD defines *use* of a personal electronic device as more than just actively operating it. Use includes:

- Holding the device in your hand
- Having it visible on a desk, table, bench, or other surface
- Wearing wireless headphones or earbuds, even if nothing is playing

To comply with the policy, all personal devices must be powered off and completely out of sight during the school day—unless a teacher or administrator gives explicit permission for instructional use.

7. Who is able to pick up the personal communication device?

Devices may only be picked up by a parent or legal guardian. Students or siblings, etc. are not permitted to pick up the device.

8. How will parents be notified if a device is confiscated?

Parents will be contacted by the school and informed of the need to retrieve the device. Devices will **not be returned directly to the student**.

9. How can I support my child in following this policy?

- Talk with your child about the importance of keeping devices **off and stored** from bell to bell
- Make a plan to contact the school office if you need to relay a message to your child during the day
- Encourage responsible use and respect for school rules