

Personal Electronic Communication Device Policy

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this policy necessary?

The Jefferson School District #251 is committed to creating an educational environment that supports mental health, academic success, and character development. Our goal is to foster a school culture where students are fully present, free from distractions, and deeply engaged in their learning. This policy aligns with our district's mission to provide each student with a high-quality education.

How does this policy support student learning?

By reducing distractions, students can better engage with their education and develop critical thinking and interpersonal skills.

What data supports this decision?

Studies have shown that removing phones in schools can lead to improved academic performance, reduced distractions, and better mental health among students. Studies have also found that students are more focused and engaged in learning environments without the presence of personal devices.

Can students carry cell phones in their bags or backpacks?

Yes, students are allowed to have their cell phones in their bags or backpacks as long as they are turned off, including disabling notifications like vibrations.

How can I contact my child during the school day?

You can call the office of their school, and a message will be delivered or they will be notified to come to the office to call you.

Can students with an IEP, 504 or Health Plan use personal electronic devices?

Students with IEPs, 504 plans, or Health Plans that necessitate the use of electronic devices as part of their accommodation will be allowed to use their devices in accordance with their plan. These students will work with school administrators to establish a clear plan for device usage that supports their learning and well-being.

What if there's an emergency and a child needs to contact their parent?

During the school day, students will be allowed to use the office phone. However, in an emergency lockdown situation, staff will allow students to use their personal electronic devices.

Can my child use their phone when they are on the bus?

Yes, students may use their cell phones, however, photography is prohibited.

Why are high school students allowed to use their devices during lunch but not students at other schools?

High school students can use cell phones during lunch as high school campuses are open, elementary and middle school closed campuses where students stay on-site.

What if a student's phone is confiscated and the parent cannot retrieve it the same day?

For first-time confiscations, students can retrieve their phones. Otherwise, phones will be in the office until parents can collect them.

Conclusion:

The Jefferson School District #251 cell phone policy is designed to create a focused, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students. By adhering to this policy, we believe our students will benefit academically, socially, and emotionally, preparing them for success in school and beyond.