

Cell phones & other electronic devices

This policy meets the requirements of WV Code §18-2-46 in that it ensures a consistent approach to the use of personal electronic devices in schools. The goal is to promote a distraction-free learning environment while allowing for appropriate exemptions and educational opportunities. For the purpose of this policy, the school day shall be defined as from the time the student arrives on school grounds until the dismissal bell. After-school tutorial and disciplinary programs are an extension of the school day for participating students, and the prohibition of cell phones in these activities extends until the conclusion of the program.

"Personal Electronic Device" (PED) means any portable device capable of wireless communication or computing, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, tablets, laptops, smartwatches, and portable gaming systems not provided by a county board of education.

PEDs are permitted on School Property. However, the use and/or display of PEDs **shall not be accessible** during instructional time. Students must store PEDs in their assigned locker unless a student qualifies for one of the following documented exemptions:

A. Medical or Special Education Need

PED use is allowed if it is:

- Required by a medical doctor or licensed healthcare professional
- Included in an approved IEP or 504 Plan
- Outlined in a written accommodation plan

The exemption documentation must include:

- The timeline for which the exemption is valid
- The specific devices approved for use
- The purpose for use

B. Work-Based Learning Programs

Students enrolled in a county board–approved work-based learning program may use specific PEDs for course-related activities, provided the:

- Device type
- Purpose
- Specific courses are documented and approved by the school administration.

Violations of this policy, which shall be documented in WVEIS, will result in the following penalties:

- **1st Offense:** The telephone will be confiscated, and a parent/guardian may be required to retrieve the item. The student will be assigned to one (1) day of In-School Suspension or the equivalent number of hours of after-school ALC at the discretion of the principal
- **2nd Offense:** The telephone will be confiscated, and a parent/guardian may be required to retrieve the item. The student will be assigned to two (2) days of In-School Suspension or the equivalent number of hours of after-school ALC at the discretion of the principal.
- **3rd Offense:** The telephone will be confiscated, and a parent/guardian shall be required to retrieve the item. The student will be suspended from school for three (3) days.
- **Subsequent Offenses:** The telephone will be confiscated, and a parent/guardian shall be required to retrieve the item. The suspension may be increased, and the privilege of possessing a cell phone at school shall be prohibited. A conference shall be offered to the parent to discuss the reasoning for this prohibition.

Students involved in extracurricular activities after school is dismissed shall have any PED set to "silent" or "vibrate" mode so that the extracurricular activity will not be disrupted. Student use of cell phones during extracurricular activities may be regulated by the coach or group sponsor as needed to prevent disruptions. PEDs shall not be used in any locker room area.

In the event that a cellular telephone is used for an illegal activity, the principal shall report the matter to law enforcement officials. Use of a cellular telephone for purposes of academic dishonesty, recording of altercations, or unethical or immoral activities shall carry additional penalties at the discretion of the principal.

The Board is not responsible for theft, loss, damage or vandalism to cellular telephones brought onto its property.