SMITHVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS GOING CELL-PHONE FREE

Starting the 2025-26 School Year: Complying with Missouri Law and creating a more focused learning environment for every student

Missouri law (Senate Bill 68) requires all school districts to adopt a policy restricting students' use of electronic personal communication devices (PCD) during the school day.

At Smithville School District, we're proud to be moving to a Personal Communication Device FREE environment to support focused learning, respectful interactions, and a safe, welcoming school environment. This means students will keep their personal devices put away during the school day so they can fully engage in learning and social connections.

We know electronic devices are a big part of everyday life. We appreciate your support in making our schools a place where every learner can thrive.

🕒 *When Are Devices NOT Allowed?*

To support our PCD Free learning environment, student devices must be off/silenced and out of sight from the first bell to the final dismissal bell, including but not limited to:

- Class
- Lunch
- Restroom
- Breaks or recess
- Between classes/passing periods
- Study hall or assemblies
- Any other part of the school day, indoor or outdoor

⚠️ *What Happens If a Student Isn't Complying with our PCD plan?*

We understand that adjusting to new expectations takes time. Our goal is to support students in making responsible choices. To comply with Board Policy JG-R1, consequences for violations will be progressive and include, but not be limited to:

- **Parent communication**
- **Classroom consequences**
- **Office consequences**
- **Collaboratively develop a plan**

First Offense	• Parent communication • Classroom consequences
Second Offense	• Parent communication • Office consequences
Third and Subsequent Offenses	• Parent communication • Office consequences • PCD plan created with the building administration and family that will explore interventions and specific plans to comply with the law/policy

Refer to your school's handbook for more information about its adherence to this guidance.

💡 *What Counts as a "Personal Communication Device"?*

Any personal device used to send, receive, store, or view communication, information, or images, including but not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Wireless headphones or earbuds
- Gaming devices
- Personal laptops and tablets
- Smartwatch (watches can be worn, but not used for communication)

❔ *When Are Devices Allowed?*

- When required by a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan. Reach out to your case manager, counselor, or principal for support.
- In an emergency (serious, unexpected, dangerous)
- On campus before the school day begins and after the school day ends
- When authorized by a teacher or administrator for an approved educational purpose

🎒 *Where Should Devices Be Stored?*

To help students follow the PCD Free expectations, devices should be powered off/silenced and stored securely during the school day. Schools may designate appropriate storage options such as, but not limited to:

- In student backpacks (zipped and stowed away)
- In lockers, when available

📞 *How Will Parents Be Able to Reach Students During the School Day?*

We understand the importance of staying connected for families. **If you need to reach your student during the school day, please call your school's main office. Our staff will ensure your message is delivered promptly or will bring your student to the office if needed.**

In the event of an emergency, students will always have access to communication through staff and the school office. Being PCD-free doesn't prevent students from communicating. It means communication occurs through the appropriate and safe channels, so learning remains uninterrupted.

🌐 *Where Can I Find Senate Bill 68 and the Full Policy?*

Our policy is currently being updated. It will be available on our website here:
https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/PolicyListing.aspx?S=106&Sch=106

Senate Bill 68 can be found here:
https://www.senate.mo.gov/25info/pdf-bill/tat/SB68.pdf

🙋 *Have questions?*

Contact your school principal or call the District Office at 816-532-0406.