



Book	Policy Manual
Section	J - Students
Title	JFC2-R
Code	Personal Communication Devices
Status	Proposed

## REGULATION-JFC2-R

### PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

#### A. Possession of Devices

1. Fredericksburg City Public Schools (FCPS) has provided computers for every student to use on an individual basis. Accordingly, there should be very limited circumstances in which a student may use a privately-owned electronic device at school.
2. The use of personal communication devices (PCD) by students during instructional time and during the school day is disruptive to the educational environment, not conducive to productive learning experiences, and often the source of disciplinary intervention.

#### B. Use of Personal Communication Devices

1. Secondary students in grades 6-12 may possess PCDs on school property. PCDs must be powered completely off, properly stored away, and not visible in instructional settings during instructional time.
  - a. Cellphones should be locked in Yondr pouches during the school day.
  - b. During instructional time, PCDs must be stored in a personal backpack or similar personal bag or purse, in teacher-designated areas within the instructional setting, in lockers, or in a personal vehicle. PCDs should not be kept on the person or in the clothing of a student.
  - c. Students are expected to use the FCPS-provided computer for all educational activities.
  - d. Personal wired headphones that plug directly into the school-issued device will be allowed for instructional purposes as assigned by teacher when using the school issued device.
2. Secondary students in grades 6-12 may only use their PCD during school hours if such usage has been explicitly permitted by an administrator (i.e. in support of special events, occurrences, or other incentives). The extension of permission for student PCD usage by an administrator may be revoked at any time.
3. Students may use PCDs on FCPS transportation vehicles before and after instructional time.
4. Use of PCDs on FCPS transportation during instructional time is not permitted without administrator approval. School Administration determines the parameters of the instructional day and instructional time and communicates expectations. The instructional day may begin before first bell and conclude after last bell; it may also allow for evening and weekend instruction.
5. With prior approval from an administrator, a student may keep his/her PCD powered on for health care communication that may be met by using a PCD, including, but not limited to, heart monitors,

diabetes monitors, and other PCD assistive technology that is included in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan), or other Health Care Plan.

6. Unauthorized audio or video recording is prohibited.
7. Establishment of a wireless ad-hoc or peer-to-peer network using a PCD or any other wireless device while on school property, including FCPS transportation vehicles, is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to, the use of a PCD as a cabled or wireless hotspot.
8. Communication during emergency conditions. All staff members have access to communication devices during instructional time and can contact the school office should emergency conditions arise. During an actual school emergency, students who access stored personal communication devices to make calls for assistance will not be penalized.

#### **C. Expectations**

1. FCPS reserves the right to monitor, review, and restrict the use of any PCD. The contents of the equipment are subject to review at any time for any lawful reason, consistent with the policies of FCPS and applicable law.
2. Students are responsible for knowing how to properly and effectively use their PCDs. FCPS will not provide any means of support for any PCD.

#### **D. Responsibility**

1. FCPS assumes no responsibility in any circumstance for loss, destruction, damage, theft, or charges made on monthly statements for any PCD. Students will be responsible for locating any lost/stolen items and for other expenses accrued to their PCD accounts.
2. FCPS assumes no responsibility for any data contained on any PCD.

#### **E. Misuse of Personal Communication Devices**

1. Students who violate this Regulation will be subject to discipline ranging from a warning to out-of-school suspension. Students may also be prohibited from having any personal cell phone, communication device or accessory on school property or at school events if the School Administration determines that the student has failed to demonstrate the ability to adhere to applicable rules, regulations, and policy.
2. Leaving the instructional setting to use PCDs in another setting will be subject to disciplinary action.
3. Use of a PCD for any action that is disruptive of the educational process, including but not limited to cyberbullying, any form of harassment, and/or display of nudity, lewd or other sexually inappropriate images, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, and/or legal/court action.
4. Use of a PCD for any action that includes the initiation and/or passing on of threats against persons or property will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, and/or legal/court action. Violations of these expectations may result in confiscation of the PCD, disciplinary action, and/or termination of the privilege to bring a PCD to school.

#### **F. Teachers and Staff Members**

1. Teachers and staff members will enforce the terms of this Regulation as well as other applicable regulations and policies in a consistent and fair manner.
2. Teachers will not be required to confiscate a personal communication device from a student who is in violation of this Regulation. They must, however, follow the prescribed Disciplinary Guidelines in this area.
3. Teachers or staff members should clearly designate where in the instructional setting students should store PCDs for any student who cannot store such devices in a personal backpack, bag, purse, or locker.

4. Students may not be authorized to use PCDs to fill instructional time or to occupy students in lieu of providing instructional activities or as a reward.
5. Teachers and staff members should model appropriate cellphone or PCD control by not using such devices during instructional time.