



## Frequently Asked Questions Cell Phone Policy, 2024-25

**Q: Why was this policy implemented?**

A: The policy was updated to comply with new state legislation, [Senate Enrolled Act 185](#), regarding Personal Communication Devices in schools, while balancing student needs and maintaining a focused learning environment.

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**Q: How will devices be stored during class time?**

A: Classrooms will be equipped with a bank of numbered pockets designed to hold personal communication devices (PCDs). Students will be assigned a specific number in each class for the duration of the course or class period. The storage units are securely fastened to classroom walls.

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**Q: What is a "teacher designated area" for cell phones?**

A: This refers to a specific spot in the classroom where students place their phones during class time. These areas are not locked, allowing quick access in case of emergencies.

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**Q: Who is responsible for devices if they are damaged or stolen while in the school's care?**

A: Students remain personally responsible for their PCDs. The school does not assume responsibility for theft, loss, damage, misuse, or unauthorized use of PCDs brought onto school property.

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**Q: What accommodations are available for students who need Personal Communication Devices (PCD) for medical reasons?**

A: Parents should communicate with the student's Assistant Principal and School Counselor to ensure proper documentation and accommodations for the use of medically necessary PCD's to establish a plan..

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**Q: How can students access their phones in case of emergency?**

A: Classrooms have multiple ways to communicate outside, including phones, intercoms, and handheld radios. Teachers also use personal devices for the school safety app. In emergencies, student use of PCD's can complicate emergency response, so communication is primarily managed by staff.

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**Q: Will passing periods be extended to accommodate the time needed to collect devices?**

A: The school does not anticipate this being an issue, students can efficiently retrieve their PCDs from assigned locations. The situation will be monitored and adjustments made if necessary.

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**Q: What is the policy on teachers and administrators having their phones during instructional time?**

A: Teachers are expected to have their phones available for emergency communication and to use the school safety app. However, they should not use devices during instructional time unless it's for delivering information used for instruction or medical reasons.

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**Q: Why can't students keep their phones in their bags or pockets, turned off or on silent?**

A: Storing devices in the classroom holders removes distractions and temptations, and provides consistent application across all classes. This approach mimics professional workplace policies where devices may need to be set aside.

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**Q: Are there alternatives to using the classroom holders?**

A: Yes. Students can avoid concerns by leaving devices at home, in their lockers, or secured in their cars (if they drive). If a student doesn't place a PCD in the holder, it's assumed they don't have one.

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**Q: What happens if a student is found using a PCD during class time?**

A: The student would be asked to place the phone in the holder. If issues persist after an appropriate number of opportunities, it may be treated as a more severe code of conduct violation.

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**Q: Does this policy apply to all grade levels?**

A: The placement of PCDs in classroom holders is being implemented in grades 6-12. There are fewer issues with devices in elementary grades (K-5).

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**Q: When are students allowed to use their devices during the school day?**

A: Students will be allowed to use devices during passing periods and lunch time, allowing for communication with home during the day.

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