



Cellular Phones and other Wireless Communication Device Policy

Section 1. Overview

North Carolina recently joined more than 20 other states and the District of Columbia by passing a law that restricts the use of cellular phones and other wireless communication devices during the instructional time. The law and this policy recognize that such devices can disrupt the learning environment and should therefore only be permitted by students in limited and clearly defined circumstances.

A Wireless Communication Device is a wireless, portable device that can provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties. The following is a non-exhaustive list of wireless communication devices prohibited by this policy: cellular phones, laptops, gaming devices, smart watches, and any personal technology device.

Section 2. Exceptions

Wireless Communication Devices are not allowed during instructional time except for the following situations:

- 1) When expressly authorized by a teacher for educational purposes.
 - a. A teacher must clearly state the intended educational purpose to students and shall have documentation available to support the use (e.g., lesson plans detailing why devices would be needed).
 - b. The teacher shall only allow devices for the duration and purpose allowed.
- 2) When expressly authorized for a teacher for use in an emergency.
- 3) When required by the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan;
- 4) As required to manage a student's health care, in accordance with a documented medical condition.
 - a. Students who need wireless communication device to manage health care must request access from the school and as part of that request, must provide documentation from a licensed medical professional outlining the necessity of access to the device.
 - b. If approved by administration, students with documented medical condition shall be granted permission to use the wireless communication device only as necessary for their condition.

- c. The school shall make accommodations as needed to ensure the student has access to their device but without compromising the educational environment.

Section 3. Procedures

Grades k – 8. Students in grades k-8 are discouraged from bringing any wireless communication device to school, as such devices often lead to unnecessary classroom disruptions. If students do bring such devices, however, school policy requires that they are not used during instructional time, except as allowed under the exceptions in Section 2. Any device on a person during instructional time must be turned off and stored according to school building procedures. Having the device on airplane or silent mode is not sufficient and could subject the student to discipline.

Grades 9 -12. Except for the reasons allowed under Section 2, no student may have wireless communication device on their person during instructional time. Simply having the device turned on silent or off is not sufficient. Students who bring such devices to class must leave their devices with the teacher. The teacher shall keep the devices stored according to school building procedures. The teacher shall return any device to the appropriate student at the end of class.

Any student found to have a wireless communication device on their person during instructional time, notwithstanding the exceptions allowed under Section 2 of this policy, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Section 4. Consequences

The first violation of this policy is a Class 2 violation under the Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary measures can include parent/guardian notification; after-school detention; permanent ban of wireless communication device on campus; and/or ISS.

Repeated violations of this policy will lead to more serious consequences in accordance with the school's Code of Conduct.

Section 5. Implementation and Training

The Managing Director or their designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy, including how to confiscate wireless communication devices if necessary.

The school is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen devices.

All staff members shall receive training annually on this policy and its enforcement.

Section 6. Communication

This policy shall be communicated to students, parents/guardians, and staff members through appropriate channels, including but not limited to student handbooks, parent newsletters, and staff meetings. The policy shall also be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as required by law; DPI shall also receive the revised version of this policy any time it is modified.

Section 7. Legal Authority

This policy aligns with North Carolina General Statute § 115C-76.100.

Approved: September 25, 2025