

Pymatuning Valley Local School District
Cell Phone Policy (Effective August 2025)

EXHIBIT "K"
8/11/25 REGULAR MEETING

Ohio law requires all schools to adopt a policy governing the use of cell phones by students during school hours by July 1, 2025. The Department of Education and Workforce, under the leadership of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, encourages all districts and schools to adopt a local policy to eliminate phone use during the school day.

Ohio law requires schools and districts to adopt local policies that:

Emphasize that student cell phone use be as limited as possible during school hours.

Reduce cell phone-related distractions in classroom settings.

May permit students to use cell phones or other technological devices for student learning or to monitor or address a health concern.

1. General Rule

- **Cell phones and similar personal electronic devices** must be **powered off or silenced and stored** (e.g., locked in a locker, backpack, or designated storage) during school hours—including class time, hallways, study halls, cafeteria, restrooms, and all common areas.

2. Effective Date

- This policy takes effect at the start of the **2025–2026 school year**, in compliance with state timelines.

3. Purpose

- Reduce classroom distractions, improve academic engagement, and protect student mental health by limiting screen time and “addictive” notifications.

4. Cell phones may be permitted under the following documented circumstances:

- **Medical necessity with documentation** (e.g., diabetes monitoring, seizure alerts).
- **Instructional use** for approved classroom activities, with teacher or administrator consent.
- Per **IEP or 504 Plan**, when cell phone use is part of the student’s accommodations.

5. Implementation & Enforcement

- **Students** must store devices before homeroom and may only access them after the last class period when the school day ends, unless an exception applies.
- **Teachers/staff** will remind students to comply.
- First offense (phone confiscation, student assigned SMR, student may pick up end of the day)
- Second offense (phone confiscation, student assigned SMR, parent must pick up phone)
- Third offense (phone confiscation, student assigned ISR, parent must pick up phone)
- Repeated offenses and school disruption of cell phone policy could lead to out of school suspensions based on student code of conduct
- Parents/guardians must adhere to policy. Students won’t be allowed to use devices during school hours unless an approved exception exists.

7. Policy Review & Adjustment

- The District's **Administrative Team** will review the policy annually and make updates as needed for clarity or alignment with law and school environment.

By adhering to this policy, we aim to foster a productive educational atmosphere that minimizes distractions and encourages academic success. Students are strictly prohibited from using their devices to record, transmit or post photos or videos of a person or persons on campus. Nor can any images or video recorded at school be transmitted or posted at any time without the express permission of the Principal. Earbuds and Headphones should be used for educational purposes only with school approved devices. They are not to be worn in the hallways.