

Policy 5131.8: Mobile Communication Devices

The Governing Board recognizes that student use of smartphones and other mobile communication devices on campus could be harmful and disruptive of the instructional program in some circumstances. When on campus or when under the supervision of district employees, students may use smartphones and other mobile communication devices only as permitted under this policy.

Mobile Communication Device Policy

The Superintendent or designee may undertake measures or strategies in accordance with law to limit student access to smartphones and other mobile communication devices on campus. (Education Code 48901.7)

A mobile communication device includes, but is not limited to, any portable, personally owned electronic device capable of sending, receiving, storing, or accessing voice, text, image, video, or data communications through wireless or internet connectivity. Examples of this would include a smartphone, earbuds, headphones, listening devices, smartwatches, smart glasses, gaming devices, or any future or emerging device with similar capabilities. This definition excludes district-issued instructional devices when used for educational purposes under staff supervision.

The use of smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall be prohibited districtwide in grades TK-8 during the regular school day, as indicated by each school's adopted bell schedule. Smartphones and other mobile communication devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during the school day.

High school students are allowed to use smartphones, smartwatches, earbuds, headphones, and listening devices only during non-instructional times and for purposes authorized by the instructional program. Devices must remain non-disruptive and may not interfere with instruction or learning.

Mobile communication device use for all grade levels shall be allowed outside of regular school hours, which may include but is not limited to the following circumstances:

1. When riding a district school bus to or from school, mobile communication device use is permitted, provided that it does not interfere with the normal operation of the bus.
2. When arriving at school prior to the initial school bell, indicating the start of regular school hours, provided that mobile communication device use does not disrupt school activities.
3. After the last dismissal bell, when regular school hours have ended, provided that mobile communication device use does not disrupt school activities.
4. When participating in extracurricular activities, provided that mobile communication device use does not interfere with extracurricular participation.

This policy shall not prohibit a student from possessing or limiting use of a mobile communication device under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7)

1. In the case of an emergency or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
2. When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device for the purpose of participating in or completion of an instructional activity, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator.
3. When possession or use of a mobile communication device is required in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.
4. When a licensed physician or mental health professional determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being

Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner that infringes on the privacy rights of any other person. Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner which disrupts the safe learning environment of students or employees, including but not limited to cyberbullying, dissemination of sexually explicit images or videos, dissemination of false images generated by artificial intelligence, creating a credible impersonation of an individual without consent, or dissemination of discriminatory content. Students who violate this policy off-campus may be subject to disciplinary action if their conduct relates to school activity or school attendance. (Education Code 48900.)

When a school official reasonably suspects that a search of a student's mobile communication device will uncover evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules, such a search will be conducted in accordance with BP/AR 5145.12 – Search and Seizure.

Enforcement

When a student uses a mobile communication device in an unauthorized manner while at a school site or under the supervision and control of a district employee, the student may be disciplined, and the district employee may temporarily confiscate the device. The employee shall store the device securely until it is returned to the student or turned over to the principal or designee, as appropriate.

To ensure a focused and respectful learning environment, the mobile communication device policy will be consistently enforced through Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and a progressive discipline approach.

1. First Violation – Reminder & Redirection
 - Staff will provide a verbal reminder of the policy.

- Student will be asked to immediately place the device in their backpack (not on their person).
2. Second Violation – Device Confiscation (End of Period/Day)
 - The device will be confiscated by staff and returned at the end of the class period or school day.
 - Incident will be documented in AERIES
 3. Third Violation – Office Referral & Parent Notification
 - The device will be confiscated and sent to the front office.
 - Incident will be documented in AERIES
 - Parent/guardian will be notified.
 - The device may need to be picked up by a parent/guardian.
 4. Repeated Violations – Progressive Discipline
 - May include lunch detention, after-school detention, or other forms of corrective action as appropriate.
 - A behavior contract or intervention plan may be implemented.

Additional Guidelines

Refusal to comply with staff direction regarding mobile communication device use may result in further disciplinary action.

Unauthorized recording (audio/video/photos) may result in more serious consequences due to privacy concerns.

A student may also be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, board policy, or administrative regulation, for off-campus use of a mobile communication device that poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property or substantially disrupts school activities, including but not limited to acts of harassment or cyberbullying.

The district will not be responsible or liable for a student's mobile communication device, which is brought on campus or to a school activity and is lost, stolen, or damaged.

A staff member who is acting within the scope of their work duties, in this case, enforcing the school's Mobile Communication Devices Policy, is not liable if mobile devices are lost, stolen, or damaged.

Schools will maintain Wi-Fi access to support instruction with the use of district-supplied Chromebooks. Students shall not access social media websites on District-provided technology while at a school site or while under the supervision and control of District employees. (Education Code 48901.8)

*Disclaimer: Woodland Joint Unified School District advises all students not to have smartphones and mobile communication devices on campus. The District will not be responsible or liable for a student's mobile communication device, which is brought on campus or to a school activity and is lost, stolen, or damaged. Students bring these devices on campus at their own risk. Parent and student requests to investigate the theft of mobile communication device will be directed to the Woodland Police Department; such thefts will not be independently investigated by the District.