

FAQ Regarding the New No Cell Phone Bill and Board Policy (District)

Q. Why did the rules about cell phones change?
A. This spring, Oklahoma legislators passed a law to make all Oklahoma public schools "cell phone-free" zones. It specifically prohibits the use of personal cell phones and other personal electronic devices during the school day, while on the school campus. Read the law here.

Q. What are other "personal electronic devices?"
A. This term includes smart watches, smart glasses, smart headphones, tablets, computers, and other devices that can be connected to a smartphone, another device, the internet, wifi, or a cellular network. It does not include devices that have been issued by the district, like laptops or iPads, or devices that the district has approved.

Q. Why is there a new CPS Board of Education policy, too?
A. The law requires that each Oklahoma school board adopt a policy about how the new law will be locally implemented.

Q. What is the purpose of the change?
A. Phones and other personal electronic devices can be a distraction and make it difficult to prioritize instruction during the day. This change will allow students to focus more on learning while they are at school. Initial research nationwide suggests that the change can increase classroom engagement and participation, while also decreasing cyberbullying and office discipline referrals. This will be year three of no cell phones at WRJH and the experience seen over these two years also supports the nationwide data.

Q. Can students use their cell phones or other personal electronic devices during the school day?
A. The law states that personal electronic devices may not be used from "bell to bell," which refers to the entire school day. In our district, the school day is:

- 8:15 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. for high school students.
- 8:15 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. for middle school students.
- 7:25 a.m. to 2:55 p.m. for elementary students.

Bell to bell" does include the lunch period and passing times.

Q. What if students need their phones in an emergency?
A. Please note that the school district will contact parents/guardians directly through our communication platforms in the event of an urgent situation or safety concern on campus. Please ensure your contact information is correct in your parent portal and download the CPS mobile app. If you have questions about this process or need to update your contact information, please do so through your parent portal or contact the registrar at your child's school for assistance.

Q. What if a parent/guardian needs to talk with a student for an important but non-emergency situation?
A. We ask parents/guardians to please call the front office of the school and talk with the staff about their concern or need. Our team will be happy to assist you.

In urgent situations, messages can be delivered to students during the school day, or they can be asked to come to the office. Otherwise, students will be notified that they have a note to pick up in the office during their free periods or after school.

Q. What if my child is ill or has an emergency?
A. Students will report to a nurse, administrator, counselor, or front office personnel, and they will assist them appropriately.

Q. What if students have a medical issue that requires them to use a device?
A. The law grants an exception for students who need their device to manage health issues, like checking their blood sugar. If a student has a medical need, we ask parents/guardians to contact their school principal to complete the exception process.

Q. What if a student has another special need that requires the use of a device?
A. The district policy grants an exception for students who need a device as an accommodation during the school day.

Q. If students can't use their phones at school, are they allowed to "have" them at school?
A. Yes. Neither the law nor board policy prohibits students from bringing their phones to school. The device can't be used during the school day unless the reason for using it falls under one of the exceptions.

Q. If students are allowed to bring their phones to school, where should they be kept?
A. Please refer to your child's school handbook for details regarding this process. Each school has a unique system tailored to the resources available within its building.

To meet the requirements of the law and board policy, our school staff expects phones to be silent, out of sight and not in use during the school day. Students have numerous options for safeguarding their phones during the day, including – but not limited to – turning it off and storing it in their secured locker or backpack, leaving it in their car, or keeping it at home. We encourage parents/guardians and students to have a conversation about what is best for their family. It is a parental choice; however, please

understand in advance that the school staff cannot be responsible for phones that are misplaced or stolen while at school.

Q. Can students use their phones when they are traveling for extracurricular activities?
A. Yes. The law only prohibits the use of personal devices during the school day while on campus.

Q. What if a teacher needs students to use their personal devices to participate in an online learning game or for another valid instructional purpose?
A. Under the policy, an exception may be granted when phones are necessary for school-related activities or instructional purposes, as directed by the teacher.

Q. What if a student doesn't follow the rules?
A. We understand this is a significant change, and we will help with the transition as much as possible. Ultimately, those who fail to follow the requirements will face consequences that align with the district's discipline policy, as outlined in the student handbook.

- *Elementary Handbook (pg. 25)*
- *Will Rogers Junior High Handbook* (pg. 28)
- *Claremore High School Handbook (pg. 14)*
- *Choices (Alternative Learning) (pg.10)*

Q. Can my child use their AirPods, headphones, or earbuds?
A. No, but exceptions will be made for educational purposes approved by the school administration.

Q. Can my child bring/use iPod, MP3, and other personal entertainment devices at school?
A. No, not during the instructional day, 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

Q. What can families do to help?
A. Please encourage students to follow this new requirement and to embrace the opportunity it will provide for them to gain more from their school experience. We hope to achieve this goal together and do not want possible consequences from non-compliance to cause additional disruptions to their school day.

Q. If students or parents/guardians have questions, whom do we contact?
A. Please contact the principal of your child's school.

FAQ (CHS Specifics)

Q: What are the consequences for non-compliance?
A. If a student violates this policy, the device will be placed in a magnetic locking pouch (school property), and the parent/guardian will be notified. (see pg. 14 of the student handbook)

Offense	Action Taken

1st Offense	Device pouched; parent/guardian notification **NOTE - Notification refers to a one-way communication from the school to inform the parent/guardian of the incident. Notification may be delivered through a voicemail or email. No confirmation of receipt is required, though the school will document the attempt.*
2nd Offense	Device pouched; lunch detention assigned; parent/guardian contact **NOTE - Contact refers to two-way communication. Staff will make a concerted effort to reach and speak directly with the parent/guardian by phone. If initial attempts are unsuccessful, multiple methods may be used.*
3rd Offense	Device will no longer remain in the student's possession. Instead, the device will be collected by an administrator and stored in a specialized, locked cell phone storage cabinet located in the main office. This secure location is used to ensure the safety of devices while they are in the school's custody. The phone will remain in the locked cabinet until it is picked up by a parent/guardian or parent/guardian-appointed adult as required by policy. (The device will not be returned to the student.)
4th Offense+	Device will no longer remain in the student's possession. Instead, the device will be collected by an administrator and stored in a specialized, locked cell phone storage cabinet located in the main office. This secure location is used to ensure the safety of devices while they are in the school's custody. The phone will remain in the locked cabinet until it is picked up by a parent/guardian or parent/guardian-appointed adult as required by policy; escalated disciplinary action, and a mandatory parent/guardian conference. (The device will not be returned to the student.)

Note: The magnetic locking pouch is school property. If it is lost, vandalized, or otherwise damaged, the student will be held financially responsible and may face additional disciplinary consequences.

Escalated Disciplinary Actions

Repeated violations or refusal to comply with this policy may result in further disciplinary measures, which can include:

- Extended In-House Detention (multiple days)
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- Referral to Law Enforcement
- Behavior Contract with Mandatory Parent/Guardian Conference

Q: What if my phone is pouched in the morning, but I have Tech Center or a concurrent enrollment class off campus in the afternoon?
A: Students attending off-campus programs (such as Northeast Tech or concurrent college courses) must notify the front office or an administrator before leaving campus if their phone has been pouched earlier in the day.

If it is the student's 1st or 2nd offense, the phone will be returned before departure for off-campus instruction.

The student will not be required to re-pouch the device upon returning to campus after off-site coursework.

However, if another violation occurs later that day, it will be counted as a separate offense (e.g., a second violation in one day) and result in escalated disciplinary action according to the next offense level.

Example Scenarios:

A student violates the phone policy during 1st hour (1st offense), has their phone pouched, and later leaves for Tech. The phone is returned for off-campus instruction. If the student uses their phone again in 6th hour upon returning, this would count as a 2nd offense and result in lunch detention.

A student is on their 3rd offense, and an administrator has locked up their phone. In this case, the phone will not be returned for off-campus use unless approved by administration, and must be picked up by a parent/guardian or appointed adult after school.

Q: What if my phone is pouched in the morning, but I have to leave school for an appointment?
A: If a student has to leave school, they must check out with the office and notify an administrator before leaving. In these situations, the administration will coordinate the return of the device. If a student returns and has another cell phone violation, this would count as two violations in one day.

Q: What if my phone is pouched before lunch, and I'm a senior who has off-campus lunch privileges?
A: If a senior violates the policy and their phone is pouched, they will lose their off-campus lunch privilege for that day. This is a safety precaution, as students must be able to communicate in case of an emergency while off campus.

Q: What if my phone is pouched and I have athletics or another extracurricular during 7th hour?
A: Students who need their phones for communication or team coordination after school must wait until the end-of-day dismissal bell to retrieve their phones, unless an administrator approves an exception.

Q: If my phone is pouched, do I get to keep it with me?
A: Yes, on the first and second offenses, the phone stays with the student inside the locked pouch. However, on the third offense, the device will be collected by an administrator and stored in a specialized, locked cell phone storage cabinet located in the main office. This secure location is used to ensure the safety of devices while they are in the school's custody. The phone will remain in the locked cabinet until it is picked up by a parent/guardian or parent/guardian-appointed adult as required by policy

Q: What happens if I try to open or tamper with the magnetic pouch?
A: Attempting to open, vandalize, damage, or disable the pouch is not only a violation of school policy but a criminal action and will result in financial liability, additional disciplinary action, and could involve the police.

Q: What if I refuse to place my device in the pouch when asked?
A: Refusing to comply with this policy will be considered defiance of authority, which is a separate disciplinary violation in addition to the personal electronic device offense. As a result, the student may face disciplinary consequences for both defiance of authority and violation of the personal electronic device policy. Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- Extended In-House Detention (multiple days)
- Out-of-School Suspension
- Referral to law enforcement
- Behavior contract with mandatory parent/guardian conference

Q: Who can pick up my device if it's held by the school?
A: Only a parent/guardian or a parent/guardian-appointed adult listed in the student's contact records may retrieve the device.