

Technology Policy

The Kansas Legislature recently passed House Bill 2299, requiring all Kansas public schools to restrict student access to and use of personal electronic communication devices during the school day beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

The purpose of this legislation is to reduce distractions, increase student engagement, improve learning environments, and encourage positive face-to-face interactions among students. In compliance with this state law, Oskaloosa Junior/Senior High School will implement a new "bell-to-bell" personal electronic device policy.

What Does This Mean for Students?

Students are strongly encouraged to leave cell phones and other personal electronic devices at home or secured in their vehicles.

If a student chooses to bring a device to school, it must be powered off or silenced and secured in the student's assigned hallway locker immediately upon arrival. Devices must remain in the locker and may not be accessed during the school day. Students may not carry electronic devices on their person, in pockets, backpacks, purses, or bags during the school day.

What Devices Are Included?

Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones and smartphones
- Smart watches and wearable devices with communication capabilities
- Tablets and personal gaming devices or laptops
- Wireless earbuds, AirPods, headphones, and similar accessories

District-issued instructional devices, such as Chromebooks, are not affected by this policy and will continue to be used for educational purposes.

What Does "Bell-to-Bell" Mean?

The school day includes the time from a student's arrival on campus until dismissal, including:

- Classes
- Passing periods
- Lunch periods
- Advisory periods
- Assemblies and pep rallies
- Bathrooms and locker rooms

Students may not access personal electronic devices at any point during the school day, including lunch and passing periods.

Communication During the School Day

We understand that parents and students occasionally need to communicate during the school day.

If you need to contact your child during school hours, please call the school office and we will ensure that the message is delivered promptly.

Likewise, if a student needs to contact a parent or guardian during the school day, they may request assistance from a teacher or use a school phone through the office.

Consequences for Violations

Students who violate the personal electronic device policy will be subject to the following consequences:

First Offense

- Device confiscated and delivered to the office
- Student may pick up the device at the end of the school day

Second Offense

- Device confiscated and delivered to the office
- Level 1 Office Discipline Referral issued
- Parent or guardian required to pick up the device

Third Offense and Beyond

- Device confiscated and delivered to the office
- Level 1 Office Discipline Referral issued
- Parent or guardian required to pick up the device
- Student required to turn in their electronic device to the JSH office each morning and may retrieve it after the final bell for the remainder of the school year
- Additional disciplinary consequences may be assigned as outlined in the student behavior matrix

Students who bring electronic devices to school do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

We appreciate your support as we implement this state-mandated change. Our goal is to create an environment where students can focus on learning, engage with their peers, and make the most of their educational experience.