District Policy: Student Personal Electronic Device Use

Purpose

The Board of Education recognizes that personal electronic devices (PEDs), including cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, and similar technology, can create distractions within the educational environment. In accordance with Kansas law, the district must implement procedures governing the use and storage of these devices during the school day. These procedures are intended to support a focused learning environment while maintaining student safety and appropriate parent communication.

Definitions

- **Personal Electronic Device (PED):** Any privately owned device capable of communication, internet access, recording, or entertainment (e.g., cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, and any other technological device not issued by the school).

General Policy Statement

Students are prohibited from using or possessing personal electronic devices during the school day on school grounds, unless explicitly permitted under approved exceptions. All personal electronic communication devices must be turned off and securely stored away from the student's person in an inaccessible location or left at home.

Daily Device Procedures

- It is recommended that students leave these devices at home.
- If traveling to and from school with a device is a necessity, upon arrival, students must:
    - Turn off their personal devices
    - Secure their device in a designated, school-provided locked storage system **OR**
    - Leave their device in their personal vehicle.

- Devices stored at school will:
    - Be placed in individually assigned slots/containers
    - Be secured in a locked cabinet located near the school office
    - Remain inaccessible to students until dismissal
- As mandated by Kansas law, the district will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices, though reasonable precautions will be taken.

Exceptions

Use or possession of devices may be permitted under the following circumstances:

1. **Medical Needs**
    a. As documented by a 504 or an Individual Education Plan (IEP)
    b. Written prescription by a medical physician (medical monitoring, etc.)

Communication Procedures

- Parents/guardians needing to contact students during the day must do so through the school office.
- Students needing to contact parents must use school phones.

Progressive Discipline for Violations

First Offense:

- Device confiscated
- Detention Assigned
- Parent/guardian must pick up the device

Second Offense:

- Device confiscated
- 1 Day of In-School Suspension (ISS)
- Parent/guardian must pick up the device

Third Offense:

- Device confiscated

- 3 Days of In-School Suspension
- Parent/guardian must pick up the device

After 3rd Offense, this becomes a refusal to comply:

- Immediate removal from class
- 3 Days of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Staff Responsibilities (in staff handbook only)

- Teachers will enforce the policy consistently within classrooms
    - Staff will not use personal discretion outside of policy guidelines (this prevents uneven enforcement)
- Administration will manage storage systems and discipline procedures

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Implementation Timeline

- Policy will take effect at the start of the 2026–2027 school year
- Orientation and communication will be provided to students and families prior to implementation

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Board Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with state law and effectiveness in supporting student learning.