Liberty Cell Phone Policy

Purpose

Liberty School District J-4 is committed to providing a learning environment that promotes student engagement, minimizes distractions, and supports positive social interaction. Cell phones shall be used in accordance with the following expectations.

Grades K–5

Students in grades K–5 shall adhere to a bell-to-bell cell phone policy. Cell phones shall remain turned on silent and stored in the student's backpack or other designated location throughout the entire school day, from the first bell until dismissal. Student use of cell phones during the school day is prohibited.

Grades 6–8

Students in grades 6–8 shall adhere to a bell-to-bell cell phone policy, with the exception of passing periods between classes.

Students may carry their cell phones on their person or store them in their backpack. Devices must remain out of sight and may not be used during instructional time, lunch, assemblies, or any other supervised school activity (including transportation to and from activities) unless specifically authorized by school administration.

Lunch shall be a cell phone-free time for all middle school students.

If a cell phone is visible or used in violation of this policy, the device shall be confiscated for the remainder of the school day.

- **First Offense:** The device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.
- **Second and Subsequent Offenses:** A parent or guardian must retrieve the cell phone from the school office.

Grades 9–12

High school students may possess cell phones during the school day. Classroom use is permitted only at the discretion of the classroom teacher for educational purposes. Unless expressly authorized by the teacher, cell phones shall remain out of sight during instructional time.

Students may use cell phones before school, during passing periods, and after school. Cell phone use during lunch shall be permitted unless otherwise restricted by school administration or staff for safety, disciplinary, or supervisory reasons.

Teachers may establish classroom procedures that are more restrictive than this policy when necessary to support instruction.

No form of personal electronic devices are to be used during state testing or college admissions testing, per the test administration.

Violations

Students who fail to comply with this policy may have their cell phones confiscated and may be subject to additional disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct for repeated or willful violations.

The District assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged personal electronic devices brought to school. Students bring such devices to school at their own risk.

Exceptions

This policy shall not apply to students whose use of a personal electronic device is required as part of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan, Individual Health Plan (IHP), or other documented medical or health-related accommodation approved by the District. Students authorized to use a personal electronic device for medical or health purposes shall use the device only in accordance with the terms of the approved plan or accommodation.