

Policy JICJ PROHIBITING USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Issued 10/24

The board believes that it is important to foster a positive educational environment that allows teachers to provide instruction and students to learn without electronic distractions. Limiting the use of personal electronic devices during the school day enhances the focus and engagement of students during instruction.

Definitions:

- A. "Personal electronic device," hereinafter referred to as "device," means any device utilized to access the internet, wi-fi, cellular telephone signals, or to capture images or video. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, tablets, and gaming devices.
- B. "Personal electronic device accessories," hereinafter referred to as "device accessories," include any wired or wireless accessory or wearable technology that connects to a device and any other accessory commonly used in conjunction with a personal electronic device.
- C. "School day" is defined as the period of time that a student is present on the school campus from their arrival (i.e., tardy bell) until afternoon dismissal at the end of the instructional day.
- D. "Access" is defined as viewing, holding, wearing, or otherwise using a device for the purpose of communication, internet access, gaming, recording, or any other function commonly associated with devices. During the school day, devices should be powered off and stored as directed by the district. Exceptions granted for medical necessity, authorized classroom use, or other authorized reasons should be in writing and are not considered violations of this definition.
- E. "Authorized for Classroom Use" is defined as the use of a personal electronic device that is explicitly approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee in writing. The approval must include alignment with a standards-aligned educational objective that cannot be reasonably achieved using district-owned devices. Students must be provided with clear instructions on the appropriate use of devices and ensure that their use aligns with the approved educational objectives. The Superintendent or his/her designee may revoke approval at any time if it is determined that the use does not meet the intended educational objectives or is causing a disruption.

Implementation

Students are prohibited from accessing their personal electronic devices, unless authorized for classroom use, during the school day. Students may not wear or access

device accessories during the school day. Students must store their devices and device accessories in lockers, backpacks, or otherwise as directed by the school administration during the school day.

A student who is a member of a volunteer firefighting organization or emergency organization may be authorized to wear a device with written permission from the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The sponsoring coordinator, coach, or instructor has discretion in allowing student access to personal electronic devices during field trips, and other school-sponsored activities, to include student organization or clubs and athletics.

If explicitly required by a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Accommodations/504 Plan, or Medical Plan, the student shall be allowed to access their personal electronic device for medically or educationally necessary purposes described and required for administration of the IEP, 504 Plan or Medical Plan.

This policy does not apply before the school day commences or after the school day concludes, unless participating in a school-sponsored activity, regardless of the mode of transportation.

Consequences

Any student that violates this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

(Note: This policy is subject to change based upon policies or guidance provided by the South Carolina State Board of Education).

Adopted 10/7/24

Legal References:

S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

[Section 59-63-280](#) - Requires board to adopt a policy on student use of electronic devices.

General Appropriations Bill, H. 5100 of 2024

Proviso 1.103(SDE: Anti-Bullying/School Safety)

Clarendon County School District