Office of Government Affairs
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www.sarasotacountyschools.net

Electronic Device Guidelines

Applicable Policy and Laws

School Board Policy	5.38 *Revision pending as of 7/2025
Florida Statute	F.S. 1003.32 (1)(a), F.S. 1006.07 (2)(f)

Considerations/Goals:

- Cell phones play a vital role in communication and safety, especially during emergencies.
- The Florida Legislature passed HB 1105 during the 2025 legislative session, making changes to student use of electronic and wireless communication devices during the school day.
- As used in Board Policy in these guidelines, the terms “electronic device(s)” and “wireless communication device(s)” have the same meaning.
- Our goal is to implement the law in a way that supports responsible student behavior with the least necessary restriction.

Implementing:

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices include, but are not limited to:

- Smartphones/Cell Phones
- Smartwatches
- Tablets/iPads
- Wireless Earbuds/Wireless Headphones/Wired Headphones/Bluetooth Speakers
- Smart Glasses
- Wearable Cameras
- Handheld Gaming Devices

Elementary Schools

Elementary School students will have devices silenced, put away, and not used at any time during the school day. They will not be asked to use their personal devices for instructional purposes. *This is **unchanged** from previous years.

Middle Schools

Middle School students will have devices silenced, put away, and not used at any time during the school day. They will not be asked to use their personal devices for instructional purposes. ***This is a change** from previous years.

High Schools

High School students will have devices silenced, put away, and not used except during transitions and lunch periods, and when under the supervision of a staff member for use during specific class

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instruction. At no time can students have devices blocking their ability to hear instructions. *This is **unchanged** from previous years.

Exclusions

Electronic device use in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 plan, or with a doctor's note from a physician certifying that the student requires the use of an electronic device based on valid clinical reasoning or evidence shall be allowed.

Cell Phone Storage

In accordance with Florida Statutes, teachers and other instructional have the authority and the right to establish rules for their classroom, including designating an area for electronic devices to be stored. Examples of areas a teacher may designate for electronic device storage include, but are not limited to:

- Backpack/Personal Storage
- Hanging Organizer
- Classroom Cubbies

A teacher may allow a student to wear a smartwatch, as long as it is not used. If allowed, and a teacher sees a student using the smartwatch when prohibited, the teacher may ask the student to store the device in the area they have designated in their classroom.

Discipline

Use of a wireless communications device includes the possibility of the imposition of disciplinary action by the school or criminal penalties if the device is used in a criminal act. Disciplinary action will be imposed in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct and could include confiscation. If the electronic device is confiscated, it will be returned to the student's parent/guardian as defined by Florida Statute.

Any student who possesses an electronic device is responsible for its care. School personnel and the School Board are not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to electronic devices brought on to its property.