Dear DCSS Families:

We hope you and your family are having an enjoyable summer break. As we prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, we want to give you early notice of a change affecting our high school students. The Douglas County School System has a new policy on electronic devices, including cell phones, smartwatches, and other portable media equipment. It takes effect on the first day of school, August 5, 2026.

At the July 6, 2026, Board of Education meeting, the board approved changes to Board Policy JCDAF: Use of Electronic Devices by Students. The change extends the rule from grades K-8 to grades K-12. The board acted after Gov. Brian Kemp signed House Bill 1009 in May, which extends Georgia's school cell phone ban to high schools.

As outlined in the board policy, the Douglas County Board of Education believes all students will achieve better academically in a learning environment free from the distraction of personal electronic devices.

Beginning on the first day of school, students in grades K-12 may not access electronic devices while on campus during school hours. This includes cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, and earbuds. Students must store devices in backpacks, lockers, or other secured locations from arrival to dismissal. We are sharing this now to give your family time to adjust before school starts. In the coming weeks, high schools will share details on how the policy will be implemented at your school.

We encourage all families to keep their contact information up to date in Infinite Campus so we can maintain open lines of communication between school and home.

Thank you for your partnership as we start the year with this change. The Douglas County School System is committed to a learning environment where every student can succeed. With your support, we will create that environment again this year.

Kindest regards,

Douglas County School System