



District Cell Phone & Electronic Device Policy

In Compliance with Texas HB 1481 (Effective August 13, 2025)

Purpose:

To provide a focused, respectful, and distraction-free learning environment, Cumberland Academy Schools prohibits the use of personal wireless communication devices (PWCDs)—including cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, headphones, tablets, pagers, or laptops not issued by the school, or any device capable of sending or receiving wireless communication—at any time during the instructional day, in alignment with Texas House

School Day Defined

The school day includes:

- Instructional time
- Lunch
- Recess
- Transitions
- Tutorials
- Any periods on campus prior to dismissal

Devices must remain powered off and stored out of sight during the entire school day.

General Policy (All Grade Levels)

- Devices must be **powered off, out of sight**, and **secured** in backpacks or other designated storage areas during instructional time.
- Use of devices is **prohibited in restrooms, locker rooms**, and any other space where privacy is expected.
- **Wireless earbuds and headphones** may not be used unless specified in an approved instructional or special education plan.



The district is not liable for loss, theft, or damage to personal devices.

Exceptions

- Students with a physician's order, or **504 or IEP accommodations** may have exceptions as documented.

Parent Communication Protocol

To avoid disruptions:

- Parents/guardians should **not contact students directly** during instructional time.
- All communication must go through the **school front office**.
- Emergency messages will be promptly delivered.
- Emergency contact must go through the **campus front office**.

Refusal to Comply

If a student **refuses to turn over their device** when requested:

- Immediate **referral to the office**
- Possible **In-School Suspension (ISS), Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)** for **insubordination, or additional consequences**
- Parent meeting required

Parent/Guardian Pickup Policy

- **Only a parent or legal guardian** may retrieve confiscated devices.
- **Pickup Hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday (administration or designee)
- **Photo ID is required**
- Devices will **not** be released to siblings, relatives, or non-guardians.



Unclaimed Devices: Items not claimed by the last day of school will be disposed of.

Fee Information

- **1st offense fee: \$5**
- **Subsequent offenses: \$10 and \$15**
- Fees must be paid:
 - In Cash
 - checks will not be accepted

VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES

1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th+ Offense
Technology Violation	Insubordination	Insubordination	Insubordination
Device confiscated and held until parent/ guardian picks up	Device held until parent/guardian picks up	Parent pick up+ student behavior contract	Conference + possible device ban or ISS
Parent Pickup Required	Parent Pick up Required	Parent Pick up Required	Parent Pick up Required
\$5 fee	\$10 fee	\$15 fee	\$15 fee