



CELL PHONE POLICY

LEARNING FIRST. PHONES AWAY. ALL DAY. EVERY DAY.



TO CREATE A FOCUSED, DISTRACTION-FREE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND COMPLY WITH NEW JERSEY LAW, STUDENTS MAY NOT USE OR POSSESS VISIBLE CELL PHONES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.

GOOD FOR LEARNING. GOOD FOR YOU.

Reducing cell phone use during the school day supports academic success and protects mental health.



Improves focus, attention, and academic performance



Encourages meaningful face-to-face connections and stronger relationships



Reduces stress, anxiety, and the pressures of constant notifications and social media



Promotes overall mental well-being and healthy digital habits



Helps create a positive, safe, and productive learning environment for everyone



**BE PRESENT.
BE ENGAGED.
BE READY TO LEARN.**



FIRST BELL → LAST BELL

The law explicitly requires local policies to comply with a student's IEP, Section 504 plan, or student health plan. Consistent, distraction-free learning supports fewer distractions, better focus, and healthier days for students.

THE BASICS IN 30 SECONDS



What's Restricted/Allowed

Cell phones are not permitted at any time during school hours, 7:40am-2:20pm. School-issued or approved personal laptops, when used for academic purposes, are allowed during class time.



When it applies

The entire school day, bell to bell — including passing time, lunch, HAP, and free periods. The use of school-issued or approved personal laptops is NOT PERMITTED in the cafeterias during lunches.



Who it applies to

All students in **grades K-12** statewide, with age-appropriate, grade-differentiated expectations set by the NJ Department of Education.



Where phones go

To avoid violating the policy, students are strongly encouraged to leave their phone at home, store their phones in their locker, or keep it turned off all day and left in their bag. To request use of their locker, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/SBHSRequestLocker>.



STILL ALLOWED

- Documented medical need (e.g., glucose monitoring) with health-care documentation on file
- Use required by an IEP, 504 plan, or student health plan
- Translation support for multilingual learners
- Case-by-case approval for students who are routine caregivers for a family member
- Teacher-directed academic use approved by an administrator when no reasonable alternative exists
- Any use required by law
- An emergency when you have to call 9-1-1



NOT ALLOWED DURING THE DAY

- Texting, calling, or messaging friends and family
- Social media, streaming, and gaming
- Photos or video of students or staff
- Scrolling at lunch, in the hallway, or in study hall
- Smartwatch notifications and replies
- Earbuds paired to a personal phone
- Phone use at supervised school events
- During drills or real emergencies (unless for safety or directed by staff)



"BUT WHAT IF I NEED TO REACH MY CHILD?"

The answer hasn't changed from any other year: the office is the fastest, most reliable way to reach a student. Staff know where every student is, and an office message gets through even when a phone is dead, silenced, or buried in a backpack. In a genuine emergency, students may use their phones.

ACCOMMODATIONS COME FIRST

The law explicitly requires local policies to comply with a student's IEP, Section 504 plan, or student health plan. A phone-free policy never overrides a documented accommodation. Families with an existing plan should confirm details with the IEP manager or the 504 coordinator: families seeking one should contact Special Services.



When we put phones away, we open the door to success, well-being, and a brighter future.



FOCUS



WELL-BEING



COMMUNITY

— SOUTH BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL —



STUDENTS:

- Off and away before the 1st bell. Turn it off & put in your locker, bag, or where your teacher directs.
- "Away" means out of your hands and out of sight – not in a pocket, sleeve, or waistband.
- Any internet-connected devices are not allowed, including Smartwatches, earbuds, etc. If it connects, records, or uses the internet, it is not allowed.
- Need to reach a parent? With permission, go to the office; staff will help you make the call.
- Expect an adjustment period. Students in other districts report feeling less anxious and more connected after a few weeks!



STAFF:

- Model it: Keep your own phone out of sight during instruction. Students Notice.
- Teach and reinforce the policy in the first week.
- Be consistent building-wide – mixed messages between classrooms erode the policy quickly.
- Follow the documented procedures in the policy. Avoid improvising consequences.
- You will collect a device that violates the policy; you may not search its contents.
- Honor every accommodation, Check with the case manager or 504 coordinator before restricting a device tied to a plan.



PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

- Call the main office – 732-329-4044 - to reach your child during the day; your call will get directed to your child's office.
- Communicate dismissal/pickup info. and appointment changes before school or through the office – not by text.
- In an emergency, contact the school directly. Office staff can locate your child faster than a text can.
- During a drill or lockdown, phones can create noise and misinformation. Trust official district communication channels.
- Talk about this policy with your child before school begins – knowing the policy and plan reduces anxiety for the first day.

1 FIRST OFFENSE



DOCUMENTED IN GENESIS

- Device is confiscated by school staff.
- Parent/guardian is notified by phone.
- Student picks up phone at end of day

2 SECOND OFFENSE



DOCUMENTED IN GENESIS

- Device is confiscated by school staff.
- Parent/guardian is notified by phone.
- Parent/guardian must pick up the phone from the school.

3 THIRD OFFENSE



DOCUMENTED IN GENESIS

- Device is confiscated by school staff.
- Student is assigned In-School Intervention (ISI).
- Parent/guardian must pick up the phone from the school.

4 FOURTH+ OFFENSE



DOCUMENTED IN GENESIS

- Device is confiscated by school staff.
- Student is assigned Out of School Suspension (OSS).
- Parent/guardian must pick up the phone from the school.

