

The FOCUS Act

What MCS Parents & Students Need to Know

Madison City Schools has amended its wireless device policy to comply with the FOCUS Act adopted by the Legislature this year. The Freeing Our Classrooms of Unnecessary Screens for Safety Act required local school boards to adopt policies consistent with the state Act by July 1, 2025. (See Act. #2025-386).

The mandated policy - with limited exceptions - bans ALL use of cell phones, smart watches, ear buds/headphones, air pods, gaming devices, tablets and other similar devices throughout the school day. Students who bring a wireless device onto school grounds must power it off, store it off of their person (ex: in their car, purse, or backpack) and not turn the device on or use it for the entire school day.

As necessary, the new policy will be enforced with disciplinary consequences set out in the Board’s revised Code of Student Conduct.

What is NOT allowed during the Instructional Day?	What IS allowed?
Wireless Communication Devices including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell phones• Non MCS-issued iPads & Tablets• Non MCS-issued laptops• Smartwatches• Smart Glasses• Pagers• Gaming Devices• Headphones & earphones	MCS-issued devices can be used during class time with teacher permission, but must be put away during transitions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I keep my phone in my backpack during school?
Devices can be in a purse, backpack, or car as long as they are turned off and stored away.

What about Field Trips?
Students will be allowed the use of devices (with administrator approval) while attending field trips that take place outside of Madison City Schools.

What about Internships, Dual Enrollment, Co-Ops, etc.?
Students participating in dual enrollment, co-ops, etc. should follow the procedures outlined by the participating organization in regards to their devices while taking part in these activities. Upon return to campus from these activities, students must adhere to the FOCUS Act and MCS policy in regards to devices.

What about Text 2 Protect?
An exception is allowed for the use of Text 2 Protect based on an emergency threatening the life of a student or another person.

