

6.20. ~~Electronic Communication Devices~~ Wireless Communication Devices

~~Personal, wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular telephones, smart phones, personal computers, tablets, digital wearables or any other electronic communication device. Students may possess a cell phone or other personal, wireless communication device on school property, but use of such devices during the school day is limited to uses expressly permitted by the supervising teacher or administrator. The Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, or damage to any personal/wireless communication device. Principals or their designees will also have the authority to further restrict or deny the use of personal wireless communication devices by any student to prevent the misuse, abuse, or violation of school rules regarding the use of such devices. School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any such device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Student Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such examination shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.~~

A. Definitions

1. Instructional Day –

- When school is open and in session;
- During class time, lunch, transitions between classes, and any non-instructional periods;
- Any time that students are required to store their Wireless Communication Devices under the Student Code of Conduct, or other school rules; or
- Any other time students are instructed to store their devices by school staff.

2. Wireless Communication Devices – Any portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device including, without limitation:

- cellular telephones
- tablet computers
- laptop computers
- pagers
- gaming devices
- smart watches
- earphones or headphones (Air Pods, ear buds, over the ear headphones, etc., whether wireless or not)

B. Possession of Wireless Communication Devices – Students are prohibited from bringing Wireless Communication Devices into school buildings and onto school grounds, except in compliance with this policy. The Board is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any Wireless Communication Device brought onto campus by a student.

C. Storage of Devices– At all times during the Instructional Day, students who possess a Wireless Communication Device on any campus or in any school must turn the device off and store the Wireless Communication Device off their person in a locker, car, backpack, purse, gym bag, or other storage location approved by school administrators. This storage requirement is subject to the exceptions set out in subsection D. below.

D. Prohibition on Use; Exceptions – Students are prohibited from using, operating, or possessing a Wireless Communication Device during the Instructional Day, except under the following limited circumstances:

- The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is specifically included in the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or an Individualized Health Plan;
- The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is for educational or learning purposes under the supervision of school personnel; and
- The use, operation, and/or possession occur during an emergency threatening the life or safety of the student or another person.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop additional guidelines for implementation of these exceptions.

E. Searches – School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any wireless communication device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such reading, examination, and inspection shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.

F. Disciplinary Action – Any violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct.

G. Additional Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop any additional rules necessary to carry out this policy.

[Reference: Ala. Act 2025-386]