

Policy Change Cover Page

Policy: JXXZ - Personal Electronic Communication Device/Cell Phone Policy

Date Last Reviewed by Policy Committee: October 18, 2024

Projected Date to Board: November 6, 2024

Projected Date for Board Vote: December 18, 2024

Overview of Updates:

New Policy to Support the Virginia Governor's Executive Order 33

Recommend a first reading on November 6 and a second reading on December 4 with a vote on December 18.

Current

Redline

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The primary purpose of this policy is to promote a healthier, more focused educational environment by limiting distractions, protecting students' mental and physical health, and ensuring that instructional time is free from the interruptions and potential harm associated with cell phone or personal electronic communication device usage.

II. DEFINITIONS

• School Day: Refers to the timeframe from the start of school to the end of school, including all instructional periods, lunch, and time between classes. The timeframe is based on the following four staggers listed on the chart below:

FIRST STAGGER SECOND STAGGER THIRD STAGGER FOURTH STAGGER
7:25 a.m. – 2:05 p.m. 8:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. 8:55 a.m. – 3:20 p.m. 9:30 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.

• Cell Phone: Any personal device capable of making calls, transmitting pictures or video, or sending/receiving messages through electronic means. This includes smartphones, non-smartphones, and similar future devices.

• Personal Electronic Communication Device: This includes any device capable of connecting to the Internet, cellular, or Wi-Fi network or directly to another device. Examples include smartwatches, tablets, laptops, and headphones.

III. Personal Electronic Communication Device/Cell Phone Policy:

• Students are not permitted to use cell phones or personal electronic communication devices within any school building or on school grounds during the school day.

• If a cell phone or personal electronic communication device is brought to school, it must be turned off and stored in a book bag or backpack prior to entering the school building. The cell phone or personal electronic communication device must not be visible or stored on the student's person or clothing during the entire school day.

• All communication needs during the school day must be conducted using school-based communication tools, such as telephones located in the school's main office, the counseling office, and nurse's office.

IV. Emergency Communications:

• Family-based emergencies must be communicated directly with the school's main office.

Legal Ref:

Governor's Executive Order 33 (2024) - Establishing Cell Phone-Free Education to Promote the Health & Safety of Virginia's K-12 Students

Clean

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