

STUDENT WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES AT PELL CITY SCHOOLS

Effective August 6, 2025

Possession of Wireless Communication Devices

Students are allowed to bring wireless devices into school buildings and onto school grounds.

Wireless communication devices include the following:

- Cellular telephones
- Tablet computers
- Laptop computers
- Pagers
- Gaming devices
- Smart watches
- AirPods/earbuds
- Any other portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device.

The Board is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any wireless communication device brought onto campus by a student.

Storage of Devices

Unless one of the exceptions listed below applies, **wireless communication devices must be turned off and stored off the student's person in a locker, car, or a similar storage location during the instructional day**, which includes:

- When school is open and in session
- During class time, lunch, transitions between classes, and any non-instructional periods; and
- Any other time students are required to do so by the Code of Conduct or other school rules or are instructed to do so by school staff.

Exceptions:

Students cannot use, operate, or possess 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.
- The use, operation, and/or possession of the device occurs 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.

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 examination shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.

Disciplinary Action

Any violations of this policy can result in disciplinary action as outlined here:

Grades K-4:

- **First Offense:** Warn, give device back to the student at the end of the day.
- **Second Offense:** The parent will be required to pick up the device in the office.
- **Third Offense:** Meet with administration and Dr. Strong. Discipline will be given case by case.

Grades 5-12:

- **First Offense:** Parent is contacted to pick up the student's wireless communication device from school administration/office.
- **Second Offense:** Student is sent to detention and parent is contacted to pick up student's wireless communication device.
- **Third Offense:** Student receives three (3) days of in-school suspension and parent is contacted to pick up student's cell phone.
- **Fourth Offense:** Class Three Offense and student/parent must attend due process hearing.

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