

Seguin ISD Personal Communication Device FAQ

Last Revised 9/22/25

What is Seguin ISD's policy on personal communication devices?

- Seguin ISD requires all students to leave their non-school-issued devices, such as cell phones, wearable technology (watches and glasses), and personal laptops, in their backpacks, powered off from bell to bell (the first bell of the school day until classes let out for the day). The policy does not apply to extracurricular activities before or after school hours or on school buses before or after school.

Why is Seguin ISD implementing a new policy on personal communication devices in the 2025-2026 school year?

- Like all Texas school districts, Seguin ISD is required by law to comply with Texas House Bill 1481, which passed the state legislature in 2025.

Does this personal communication device policy apply to all Seguin ISD schools?

- Yes, the policy applies to all Seguin ISD students, regardless of age, while they are on school property during regular school hours. In this instance, *"school property" means anywhere on a school's campus or in a district facility where instruction is provided, including but not limited to: classrooms, hallways, gyms, cafeterias, band halls, and all other extracurricular spaces; outdoor fields, tracks, and other athletic areas; all breezeways, courtyards, playgrounds, and other outdoor areas, specifically including all school parking lots.*

If my child brings a personal laptop, may they use it instead of the district-issued Chromebook?

- Students may not use a personal laptop on school property during the school day. The district's personal communication device policy applies to personal laptops.

What consequences will students face for violating the policy?

- Seguin ISD has progressive consequences for violating its personal communication device policy, as outlined in the Student Handbook. Those found in violation may face detention, loss of privileges, and DAEP placement, and have their device confiscated.

The policy mentions leaving personal communication devices in a backpack. What if my child does not have a backpack with them?

- Students who do not have a backpack or approved bag at school may leave their personal communication devices at their school's front desk before the beginning of the school day.

Who can confiscate personal communication devices?

- Seguin ISD's policy allows for authorized district employees to confiscate devices found in a student's possession (*on the person of the student, directly held, in pockets, in a backpack, in a pouch, or otherwise accessible and under the control of the student directly*) during school hours, if the device is used. Authorized employees include school administrators, trained classroom teachers, and trained para-professionals; however, staff may not attempt to take a device from a student physically.

What if I need to reach my child during the school day?

- Parents and guardians who need to reach their student for an urgent issue must call the front desk at their child's school to communicate with their student during the school day.

Can students use their phones at lunch?

- Seguin ISD's personal communication device policy applies to the entire school day, from the first class/bell of the day until school lets out. Use of personal communications devices during lunchtime on school property is prohibited.

Are there exceptions to the policy?

- Exceptions may be made in the following cases:
 - The student's use of their personal communication device is necessary for implementation of the student's individualized education program, a 504 plan, or a similar program or plan.
 - The student's use of their personal communication device is required due to a documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician; or
 - The student's use is necessary to comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as part of the District or campus safety protocols.

What consequences will students face if they violate the policy?

- **First Offense:** After confiscation and documentation, the student picks up the phone from the front desk at the end of the day.
- **Second Offense:** After confiscation and documentation, only the officially "listed" parent/guardian (as seen in the school information system) may pick up the phone.
- **Third Offense:** Same as the second offense, but the student must also serve one detention hall (Ex. - Lunch detention, afterschool detention, before school, or as determined by the campus).
- **Fourth Offense:** Same as the third offense, but the student must also serve the equivalent of two detention halls (Ex. - Lunch detention, afterschool detention, before school, ISS room, or as determined by the campus).

- **Fifth Offense:** Again, parent/guardian pickup, but this offense will also be treated as **gross insubordination** towards the district policy and administrators' warnings, and, therefore, a **mandatory behavior contract** will be issued to the student.
 - (1) This contract can include, but is not limited to: Loss of privileges, field trip, school events during or outside of the school day, ISS/OSS, a DAEP placement, and/or loss of extracurricular or UIL activity (decision made in conjunction with sponsor, director, and/or coach).
 - (2) Note: This contract will be tailored to the individual needs of the student, and may also consider other behavior infractions.