

	Section: 200 - STUDENTS Title: Cell phone use by students during school hours Policy Number: 298 Adopted: August 11, 2026 Last Review Date: Revised:
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GUIDE		REFERENCE
PURPOSE	Colonial School District establishes this Policy to define acceptable and unacceptable student cell phone use at school.	
AUTHORITY	Delaware Code: Title 14, § 4124	
DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY	The Superintendent or designee is empowered to implement and monitor the provisions of this policy.	
POLICY STATEMENT	<u>Definitions</u> Cell phone: A portable electronic device used for communication through voice calls, text messages, or internet access. Instructional time: Educator-led time dedicated to teaching and learning. Electronic device: Any device capable of voice, text, image, video, data transmission, recording, or internet connectivity, including cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, headphones or audio earpieces, handheld games, tablets, laptops, Chromebooks, wearable technology such as AI-enabled or augmented reality glasses, and other personal electronic devices. School hours: The time from student arrival on campus until dismissal, including both instructional and non-instructional periods. Unauthorized use of an electronic device: Means students who engage in non-educational activities in the school environment, including capturing, distributing, displaying, sharing, or posting of inappropriate images, videos, movies, or music from devices. The definition also includes engaging in social media, texting, playing games, or streaming that disrupts the learning environment. Student Cell Phone Use Expectations Elementary	

Cell phones and other personal electronic devices used by elementary students are generally not permitted during school hours. If a student brings a device to school, the device shall remain powered off or in silent mode and stored in a backpack, locker, or other designated location for the duration of school hours, unless an approved exception applies.

Secondary

Students shall not use cell phones or other personal electronic devices during instructional time unless authorized by school staff or permitted under an approved exception. Students shall not engage in unauthorized use of an electronic device at school, as defined above. The school may define permissible use during designated non instructional periods and in approved locations. Schools may establish additional expectations related to device visibility, audio recording, video recording, or use during assessments.

Limited student cell phone use may be permitted during non-instructional time and in non-instructional areas, so long as it does not interfere or conflict with any of the following:

- student learning
- school operations (as defined by school administration)
- assessment integrity
- privacy of others
- any school rule or expectation that is detailed in the Student Code of Conduct

Home–School Cell Phone Communication

Expectations

Elementary & Secondary

Schools shall communicate the cell phone and other electronic device use policy and related expectations to students and parents or guardians through handbooks, orientations, school websites, and other appropriate methods. Students shall acknowledge receipt and understanding of the policy. Teachers shall consistently reinforce the policy in classrooms and school activities, adhering to the procedures established by school administration.

Consequences for Cell Phone Use Policy Violations

Elementary & Secondary

The consequences for Cell Phone Use Policy violations are outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Emergency and Approved Accommodation

Exceptions

Elementary & Secondary

This policy shall not prohibit student access to a cell phone or other electronic device when required for a documented medical need, an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, another educational accommodation, language-access support for multilingual learners, a verified emergency, or when directed by school staff for instructional or safety purposes.

Furthermore, this policy shall not prohibit student access to a cell phone or other electronic device during an actual exigent threat to health, welfare, or safety of the student, solely for the purposes of communicating with parents, guardians, or emergency first responders.

Schools shall establish and communicate a clear procedure by which a student, parent, or guardian may request and obtain approval for an applicable exception. The procedure shall include documentation requirements and identify the staff member or administrator responsible for reviewing and granting such requests.

Monitoring Cell Phone Use Policy Data for Equity and Consistency

Elementary & Secondary

Schools shall monitor discipline data related to cell phone and other electronic device policy violations to promote consistent and equitable enforcement and to inform periodic policy review.

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