MITCH Charter School Policy

Code: JFCEB
Adopted: 02/03/26

Personal Electronic Devices **

Student use of a personal electronic device is prohibited from the start of regular instructional hours until the end of regular instructional hours, except as provided below.

Except as otherwise provided in this policy, "personal electronic device" means any portable, electrically powered device that is capable of making and receiving calls and text messages and accessing the internet independently from the school's network infrastructure. This includes headphones and earbuds attached to personal electronic devices. This does not include a laptop computer or other device required to support academic activities.

Personal electronic devices may be used when use complies with the terms of:

1. The student's medical provider's order for the care and treatment of a medical condition;[1]

2. The student's individualized education program, as defined in ORS 343.035 or an education plan developed for the student in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794);[2]

3. A written exemption provided for the student based on a request received in JFCEB-AR. School administration will respond to such a request within fifteen school days.[3]

Personal electronic devices may be kept by students in lockers or backpacks, but personal electronic devices are not to be stored on the student's person or in the student's clothing during regular instructional hours.

This policy excludes time when students are not on school grounds and are not under the supervision of school personnel other than a school bus driver. That is, students may use their personal electronic devices during the bus ride to and from school. However, a student who uses their personal electronic device inappropriately or disruptively on the bus may have the device confiscated or access to it restricted.

The school will not be liable for the loss of or damage to any personal electronic device brought to school property or school-sponsored activities.

Students in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. Discipline for mere possession or use of a personal electronic device may not include loss of instructional time for the student (including

[1] JFCEB-AR must be submitted to the building administrator, along with a copy of the order.

[2] If use of the personal electronic device is included in the individualized education program or education plan, JFCEB-AR submission is not required.

[3] JFCEB-AR must be submitted to the building administrator.

suspension or expulsion), but could include confiscation of the personal electronic device until the end of the day, parent notification, a cell phone check-in/check-out protocol at the main office, family meetings, or other sanctions. However, if the actions taken by a student violate another conduct policy, the student may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.[4] Necessary communications during the school day while on school grounds between students and parents or guardians can be made through the school office.

The executive director or designee shall ensure this policy is posted on the public charter school website and made available to school personnel, students, parents, guardians, partners who are in school buildings during the school day, and the Oregon Department of Education.

In accordance with ORS 336.840, students may be allowed to use personal electronic devices[5] that support academic activities and independent communications[6], except as prohibited by this policy. In academic activities in which a personal electronic device is required as part of the curriculum, students may be allowed, but not required to use their own personal electronic devices for that portion of the curriculum. Students using their own device must be granted access to any applications or electronic materials that are available to students who do not use their own personal electronic devices. These applications must be free of charge if students who do not use their own devices have access free of charge.

Requests for exemptions to this policy can be processed in accordance with JFCEB-AR – Request for Personal Electronic Devices Exemption. Appeals can be filed with the executive director in accordance with KL-AR – Public Complaint Procedure.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 332.107 ORS 336.840 ORS 338.115

Oregon Executive Order 25-09

[4] For example: a student could be disciplined with lost instructional time for using a personal electronic device to bully another student or for accessing inappropriate content. Discipline will be in accordance with Board policies.

[5] The use of "personal electronic device" in this paragraph comes from ORS 336.840, which does not define the term. However, the definition in EO 25-09 wouldn't necessarily apply. Consequently, items like laptop computers or other devices required to support academic activities would likely be considered personal electronic devices within this paragraph.

[6] "Independent communication means communication that does not require assistance or interpretation by an individual who is not part of the conversation, but that may require the use or assistance of an electronic device. ORS 336.840(1).