

Student-Owned Electronic Communications Devices

The Board adopts this policy to regulate the use of student-owned electronic devices within North Gem School District schools. Excessive use of cell phones and social media has been linked to potential detriments to students' physical and mental health. The North Gem School District prioritizes maintaining an environment where students are engaged in learning without distractions.

Objectives

This policy seeks to:

1. Align with State Department of Education guidance on cell phone use.
2. Promote student safety.
3. Support staff in maintaining a focused and distraction-free learning environment.
4. Reduce distractions during instructional time.
5. Improve academic outcomes.
6. Foster responsible technology use.
7. Prevent cyberbullying.
8. Address privacy concerns associated with personal electronic devices.

This policy applies to any non-District-issued electronic device capable of accessing the internet, sending electronic messages, or causing a disruption or distraction to the learning process. Including but not limited to smartphones, tablets, laptops, e-readers, smartwatches, headphones, and earbuds.

Restrictions on Use

Students must keep their devices completely silenced (not making notifications, alerts, or vibrations), out of sight, and not on their person (e.g. in their pocket) while on school campuses or at school activities for the duration of the school day. The only exception is that high school students may use their devices during their lunch periods at school.

Containment of Devices

Students may keep devices in a backpack, bag, locker, etc. but the device must not be seen or heard.

This prohibition does not extend to district-issued devices in educational settings. Students may use district-issued devices (i.e. Chromebooks) or pre-approved personal devices, such as headphones, for education purposes during the school day.

Exceptions

1. IEP and 504 Plans: Students may use electronic devices as required by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan.
2. Emergencies: In the event of an emergency, parents/guardians will be notified through the district notification system.
3. Parent/Guardian Contact: Parents or guardians needing to contact a student during restricted times may do so by calling the school office. Staff will relay the message or bring the student to the office to communicate directly.

Acceptable Use

1. Devices must be used in compliance with Policy 3270P, Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks.
2. Students may only access the internet through the District's filtered connection using District-sponsored devices.
3. Use of cameras or recording devices is prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, and classrooms unless explicitly authorized by a certified District employee. Permission must also be obtained before taking or posting images or videos of individuals.

Disciplinary Procedures

If a student's device is visible, stored on their person (e.g. in their pocket), or is found to make a notification, during the school day, the device will be confiscated by a District employee and may be retrieved from the school's front office at the end of the school day by the student on the first offense. For any following offenses, the student's parent/guardian may pick up the device from the front office. Administrators may utilize Policy 3340 and Procedure 3340P Corrective Action and Discipline to address repeat offenders.

Appeals can be submitted in writing to the principal within five school days or to the Superintendent if the decision was made by the principal.

Implementation and Review

The Superintendent or designee will:

1. Inform staff, students, and parents about this policy and its implementation.
2. Annually report the policy's effectiveness to the Board and recommend changes as needed.

Cross References: 3270P
 3340

Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks
Procedure
Corrective Actions and Punishment

Legal References: Executive Order
2024-11 Phone Free Learning Act

Policy History:

Adopted on: July 7, 2025

Revised on:

Reviewed on: