

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Policy AA453 Use of Personal Electronic and Communication Devices

These answers attempt to address questions related to Policy AA453 that may arise from time to time. Answers align with the policy's emphasis on maintaining a school environment conducive to learning while allowing for accommodations and exceptions when necessary.

General Information

What is the purpose of the policy on personal electronic and communication devices?

The policy aims to ensure an educational environment conducive to high-quality teaching and learning by minimizing distractions and disruptions caused by personal electronic and communication devices.

How was this policy developed? This policy was developed by the Board over many months using a collaborative process that took into account perspectives from multiple stakeholder groups, including surveys and focus groups with parents, students, and teachers.

Who approved this policy? The policy was approved by the Jordan District Board of Education on September 24, 2024 and takes effect October 29, 2024.

Elementary School (Grades K-6)

Are students allowed to use personal electronic devices during the school day?

No. Students in grades K-6 are not permitted to use personal electronic and communication devices during the school day. Devices must be silenced and kept out of sight. The school day is defined by the school hours published on the school website.

Can my student wear a watch that is a "smart watch"? Smart watches are included in the category of personal electronic and communication devices. Elementary schools may allow students to wear a watch if it is not used for communication. Asking Elementary students to store watches out of sight is not considered an additional restriction.

Are buses considered part of the school day? No. Buses are not considered part of the school day unless it is part of a field trip held during the school day. Students can use phones on buses before and after school and at after-school activities.

Can exceptions be made for the use of personal devices? Yes. Exceptions may be approved by the school principal in consultation with their Administrator of Schools under extraordinary circumstances.

What are the consequences for violating this policy?

- **1st Offense:** Verbal reminder/warning and notification to parent/guardian.
- **2nd Offense:** Device is held in the office for pick-up at the end of the day by the student, with notification to parent/guardian.
- **3rd+ Offense:** Device is held in the office for pick-up at the end of the day by a parent or guardian. Additional consequences may be implemented by the school.

Secondary School (Grades 7-12)

Can my student wear a watch that is a "smart watch"? Smart watches are included in the category of personal electronic and communication devices. Students may wear a watch but may not use it for the purposes of communication.

Are students allowed to use personal electronic devices during class time? No. Students in grades 7-12 are not permitted to use personal electronic devices during class time. Devices must be silenced and kept out of sight.

Can exceptions be made for the use of personal devices? Yes. Exceptions may be granted with the approval of the school principal in consultation with their Administrator of Schools.

What are the consequences for violating this policy?

- **1st Offense:** Device is stored securely in the main office for pick-up at the end of the day by the student.
- **2nd+ Offense:** Device is placed in a secure container and stored in the main office for pick-up at the end of the day by a parent/guardian. Additional consequences may be implemented by the school.

Additional Information

Are there any circumstances where students can use personal electronic devices? Yes. Students may use personal electronic devices during school-sponsored activities outside school hours at district school campuses and while on district buses. (Refer to the elementary level questions for more information.)

Can schools implement additional restrictions? Yes. Schools may enact additional restrictions in consultation with their Administrator of Schools, support of the School Community Council, and with notification to the Board of Education.

Can a teacher be more restrictive than the district policy? No. It must be a school-wide implementation. Schools may enact additional restrictions in consultation with their Administrator of Schools, support of the School Community Council, and with notification to the Board of Education.

How do we make people aware of changes to school policy? Follow the notification process you would normally use with staff and parents. Updates should be reflected in the school code of conduct and made available on the school website. All substitute teachers should be made aware of school policies and exceptions made for students.

Can my student use their electronic device for medical needs? Yes. If the use of an electronic device is necessary for medical reasons, this would be considered an exception under this policy. Parents should communicate with the school principal and provide necessary medical documentation to ensure proper accommodations are made. Efforts should be made to accommodate medical needs without a student's personal electronic device, if possible.

Can my student use their phone or other personal electronic device as a 504 accommodation? Yes. However, schools should attempt to accommodate student needs with something other than a student's personal electronic device. It is important to ensure that 504 accommodations are documented and communicated effectively by medical and/or mental health professionals. If a student's 504 plan specifies the use of a phone as an accommodation, the policy allows for exceptions to be approved by the school principal in consultation with their Administrator of Schools. Approved accommodations should be communicated to relevant school staff.

Are teachers and staff members also included in this policy? No. The policy addresses student use of personal electronic devices. However, staff and teachers are generally expected to model appropriate device use that supports the educational environment. Specific guidelines for teachers and staff should be communicated by school administrators and outlined in school policies or staff handbooks.

If a student has their phone confiscated for parent pickup, can parents give permission for the student to get it back at the end of the day? No. However, adults listed as an emergency contact in Skyward may be allowed to pick up the device.

Do you have additional questions not listed here? Please contact your Administrator of Schools.