

Use of Cellphones and Electronic Communications Devices by Students

Ohio's Cellphones in Schools Model Policy

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Board has determined the use of cellphones by students during school hours should be limited.

The objective of this policy is to strengthen the District's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

Research

Research shows that student use of cellphones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cellphones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cellphone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

Applicability

This policy applies to the use of cellphones by students while on school property during school hours.

Use of Cellphones

Students are prohibited from using cellphones at all times.

Exception

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cellphone for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.

A student may use a cellphone to monitor or address a health concern.

Cellphone Storage

Students shall keep their cellphones in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district, at all times when cellphone use is prohibited.

Discipline

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator shall take the following progressively serious disciplinary measures:

1st Offense: Give the student a verbal warning and place the student's cellphone in the school's central office for the remainder of the school day.

2nd Offense: Assign first level of progressive discipline. Place the student's cellphone in the school's central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.

3rd Offense: Assign second level of progressive discipline. Place the student's cellphone in the school's central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.

4th Offense: Assign third level of progressive discipline. Place the student's cellphone in the school's central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.

Additional offenses will result in further progressive discipline and a behavior plan conference with the student and the student's family.

CROSS REFS.: Student Handbooks

Legal

[ORC 3313.20](#)

[ORC 3313.753](#)