

Tamalpais Union High School District
Policy 5131.8: Mobile Communication Devices

The Board of Trustees recognizes that the use of smartphones and other mobile communication devices on campus are ~~beneficial to student learning and well-being, but could be disruptive of~~ to the instructional program ~~and harmful to the social-emotional health of students in some circumstances. The Board permits limited use of mobile communication devices on campus in accordance with law and the following policy:~~

~~For these reasons, S~~students may ~~not~~ use cell phones, smartwatches, pagers, or other mobile communication devices on campus during ~~non-instructional time the school day, which includes during lunch and nutrition/break, as long as the device is utilized in accordance with law and any rules that individual school sites may impose.~~ Cell phones and other devices must be turned off and stored in a lockable cell phone case and placed out of sight during the school day; the District will use tools, such as, but not limited to, lockable cell phone cases or lockers to ensure this policy is followed.

Students who do not have, or do not bring, a smartphone to school must complete a waiver attesting to this.

Students who need to call a parent/guardian during the school day may use phones located in the administrative office.

Students may resume the use of their mobile communication devices after leaving the school campus at the end of their school day and during after-school extracurricular and sporting activities, as long as the devices are utilized in accordance with law, and in accordance with BP/E 6163.4 Student Use of Technology.

~~Mobile communication devices shall be turned off during instructional time and shall be collected by each teacher at the start of every instructional period. Teachers may ask students to use their personal mobile devices for instructional purposes. Students may not take their cell phone or mobile device out of the classroom during instructional time unless they are being dismissed from school, or are excused from the class and will not be returning to the classroom during that instructional period.~~

Mobile communication devices shall be turned off during the school day and secured by the student in a lockable cell phone case or staff controlled lockers throughout the school day. However, a student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7)

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger
2. When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator

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3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being
4. When the possession or use is required by the student's individualized education program

Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person. **The use of any cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, or other mobile communication devices, may NOT be used at any time in the gym, locker rooms, and restrooms.**

When a school official reasonably suspects that a search of a student's mobile communication device will turn up evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules, such a search shall be conducted in accordance with BP/AR 5145.12 - Search and Seizure.

When a student uses a mobile communication device in an unauthorized manner, the student may be disciplined and a district employee may confiscate the device. The employee shall store the device securely until it is returned to the student or turned over to the principal or designee, as appropriate. **If turned over to the principal or designee, a parent/guardian may be notified and may be required to pick up the device from the school.**

A student may also be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, Board policy, or administrative regulations, for off-campus use of a mobile communication device which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property or substantially disrupts school activities.

Pursuant to Education Code 48900, districts have the authority to suspend or expel students who engage in cyberbullying off campus, provided that the act meets the criteria specified in the definition of "bullying" in Education Code 48900 (i.e., a severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of placing a reasonable student in fear of harm to the student's person or property, causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health, causing substantial interference with the student's academic performance, or causing substantial interference with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or privileges).

The Superintendent or designee shall inform students that the district will not be responsible for a student's mobile communication device which is brought on campus or to a school activity and is lost, stolen, or damaged.