



## Disconnect to Reconnect Initiative

The Disconnect to Reconnect initiative is a districtwide effort by the DeKalb County School District to cultivate focused, respectful, and emotionally supportive learning environments. Rooted in the principles of the Code of Student Conduct, this initiative is designed to support student achievement, foster interpersonal relationships, and promote a culture of attentiveness and accountability throughout the school day.

As part of this initiative, students are strictly prohibited from using cell phones, smartphones or any other personal electronic devices during the instructional day. This includes, but is not limited to, iPads, tablets, smartwatches, smart glasses, headphones, earbuds, AirPods, and similar accessories.

All personal electronic devices must be powered off and kept out of sight from the moment students board the school bus, are dropped off, or arrive on campus by any means. These devices may not be used at any point during the instructional day, including class transitions, lunch periods, or any other time while on school grounds.

Violations of this policy will be considered disciplinary infractions and will be addressed in accordance with the DeKalb County School District Code of Student Conduct. Consequences may include progressive disciplinary actions based on the nature and frequency of the violation.

The rationale behind Disconnect to Reconnect is grounded in the need to re-establish meaningful engagement in the learning process and to remove barriers to academic and social-emotional growth. The overuse of personal technology in school has led to increased distractions, decreased academic performance, and weakened student-to-student and student-to-staff relationships. By eliminating these distractions, the initiative creates space for students to be fully present, communicate effectively, and build the skills necessary for lifelong success.

Disconnect to Reconnect directly supports the district's broader commitments to legal compliance, student wellness, and restorative practices by reinforcing expectations that promote safety, attentiveness, and mutual respect. This initiative is not solely about device management, it is about empowering students to take ownership of their education, reconnect with their learning environment, and contribute positively to their school community.

In compliance with the Distraction Free Education Act, the DeKalb County School District fully endorses the Disconnect to Reconnect initiative for the 2025–2026 school year and beyond. The Code of Student Conduct and the District's discipline practices have been updated to ensure the effective implementation of this initiative.