

Board Policy JCDAF: Use of Electronic Devices by Students

Status: REVIEWED

Original Adopted Date: 08/11/2003 | Last Revised Date: 10/26/2015 | Last Reviewed Date: 10/26/2015

The Hall County Board of Education recognizes that electronic media, including the Internet, instructional software, and cloud based applications and resources, provides access to a wide variety of instructional resources. All Hall County Schools are Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) environments. Students in Grades PreK–12 are encouraged to bring personal devices to use for instructional purposes.

Use of electronic communication devices and other electronic media during the regular school day must be in support of, and consistent with the vision, mission and goals established by the Hall County Board of Education. All users of Hall County School District networks, services, and applications must maintain strict compliance with all applicable ethical and legal rules and regulations regarding access.

Personal Electronic Device Use

The Hall County Board of Education is committed to fostering a learning environment that is free from unnecessary distractions and conducive to academic success. To achieve this goal, the use of personal electronic devices by students shall be limited during the instructional day in order to minimize disruptions, promote engagement, increase meaningful interactions and focused learning experiences.

This policy applies to all students in kindergarten through twelfth grade while on school premises during regular school hours. Special events or activities that occur during the course of the school day, including but not limited to field trips, pep rallies, guest speakers, and assemblies, are also subject to this policy.

Students in grades K–8 are not permitted to access or use personal electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, earbuds, or any other device capable of wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission during the school day.

Students in grades 9–12 are prohibited from using the aforementioned personal electronic devices during instructional time and during special activities or events, including but not limited to field trips, pep rallies, guest speakers, and assemblies. *Instructional time* is defined as the period between the bell that signifies the start of a class and the bell that signifies the end of that class.

Students in grades 9–12 may use personal electronic devices only during non-instructional times, such as class transitions, breakfast, and lunch periods.

Students who have an approved Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or medical plan that requires the use of a personal electronic device shall be permitted to use such devices as necessary to fulfill the requirements of that plan. Parents or guardians should contact the school office for clarification regarding these provisions.

Any student found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Hall County Schools Student Code of Conduct. The Hall County School District assumes no responsibility or liability for the theft, loss, or damage of personal electronic devices.

All users of HCSD technology resources and facilities must agree to and sign the terms of the Hall County School District's acceptable use agreement. Inappropriate use is subject to local school disciplinary action, up to and including a disciplinary tribunal hearing, or district level disciplinary action in accordance with the HCSD student code of conduct. Individual schools may establish additional guidelines for use of electronic resources.

The Superintendent will ensure that practices regarding the implementation of this policy will be followed as outlined in the Hall County Code of Conduct.
