

Board Policy JCDAF: Use of Electronic Devices by Students

Status: ADOPTED

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The Bibb County Board of Education ("Board") believes that creating a school environment free from electronic distractions promotes a positive learning environment, improves academic outcomes, and increases meaningful interactions and focused learning experiences. The Board restricts the use of personal electronic devices by Bibb County School District ("District") students as set out this policy.

The Bibb County School District ("District") provides each student access to district-owned electronic devices for instructional purposes. Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with student access to school equipment provided to students for instructional purposes.

I. Definitions

- a. Access: Viewing, holding, wearing, or using a personal electronic device for communication, digital content, internet connection, gaming, recording, listening to music, or any other function.
- b. Personal Electronic Device: Any personal portable electronic device capable of transmitting, receiving, or accessing communications, data, or media, including but not limited to personal laptops, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, smart glasses, e-readers, headphones, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission.
- c. School Day: The time designated from the time the student enters the school building to the time the final bell rings to signal the completion of all instructional time for the day, including all scheduled instructional time, recess, lunch, transitions, and non-instructional activities occurring between the start and end of the school day.
- d. School Equipment: Any computer, computer networking equipment, technology or technology related device or service, or communication system or service that is operated, owned, leased, and made available to students by the District and that is used for transmitting, receiving, or accessing communications, data, or media.

II. Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices

- a. Students may not access any personal electronic device. Personally owned electronic devices are not permitted for use during the school day unless otherwise provided by law, authorized by the superintendent or designee. "School day" for all students begins when the student enters the school building and ends when the bell rings to signal the completion of instructional time for the day. A student is allowed to have a personally owned electronic device/personal electronic device at school, but it the personal electronic device must be out of sight and turned off during the school. School-day/Day must be stored appropriately in a manner established by the school, including but not limited to, in a student's locker, a locked pouch, or a designated place in the classroom. Students are permitted to use their a personally personal electronic device/owned electronic device after completion of the school day.
- b. Procedures for managing personal electronic devices for off-site events or activities, including school sponsored events and field trips, daily transportation, athletic and extracurricular events, and other instructional activities that do not occur on school grounds, will be established by the District/school and communicated to students and parent/guardians through such means as the Student Code of Conduct and school websites.

~~c. Students may access personal electronic devices on the bus. Inappropriate use~~ Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action according to policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

~~b.d.~~ The District will establish communication protocols that require parents or guardians who need to communicate with their student during the school day to contact the school directly.

~~c.e.~~ Students with a health condition which requires the use of a personal electronic device are permitted to use the device during the school day after submitting documentation from their physician and receiving prior approval from school administration. Students may use a personal assistive technology device if the device is addressed in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan. The prohibition on student access to personal electronic devices during the school day shall not apply to a student whose Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 plan, or school-approved medical plan explicitly provides for the use of a personal electronic device for medical or educational purposes, as long as the student's use of the personal electronic device is necessary to fulfill the requirements of, and is used as set out in, the IEP, Section 504 plan, or medical plan. Use of the personal electronic device that is inconsistent with the IEP, Section 504 plan, or medical plan may be grounds for discipline.

~~d.f.~~ The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, and review a personally ~~owned~~ electronic device or file when administration has a reasonable suspicion that a violation of the District's Student Code of Conduct or ~~a~~ law has occurred.

II.III. Student Use of Electronic Recording Devices

Students are not permitted to use any electronic device, whether personal or school-issued, to record audio or video media or take pictures of any student or staff member without receiving prior permission from a teacher and/or administrator. The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension, criminal charges, and expulsion, in accordance with policy and the Student Code of Conduct, and, depending on the circumstances, could result in criminal charges.