

PROPOSED: Regulation JCD-R(3): Student Conduct – Distraction-Free Education

The Barrow County School System is committed to a positive and safe learning environment free from electronic distractions. **Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, students in kindergarten through grade eighth (K-8) will be prohibited from bell-to-bell access to personal electronic devices.** These devices must be stored, secured, silent, and out of sight during the school day. Devices should be turned off, placed in school-designated locations, and not accessed by students without prior authorization from school officials.

Bell-to-bell means from the time the school day begins until the school day ends. This includes all instructional time, breaks, transitions, assemblies, lunch, recess, and other school related activities occurring between the start and end of the school day.

Access means viewing, holding, wearing, or otherwise using a device for the purpose of communication, internet access, gaming, recording, listening to music, or any other function commonly associated with personal electronic devices.

Personal electronic devices refer to those capable of transmitting, receiving, or accessing communications, data, or media. This includes, but is not limited to, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission.

Students found to be in violation of the Distraction-Free Education procedures shall be subject to progressive consequences in accordance with the Barrow County Schools Code of Conduct.