Board Policy JCDAF: Use of Electronic Devices by Students

Status: ADOPTED

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The Board of Public Education for Bibb County ("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.

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, internet access, gaming, recording, listening to music, or any other function commonly associated with personal electronic devices.

b. Bell to Bell: The period beginning with the first bell signaling the start of instructional time and ending with the final bell signaling the conclusion of the school day and shall include all scheduled instructional time, breaks, transitions, assemblies, and other school related activities occurring between the start and end of the school day.

c. 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, headphones, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission.

d. School Day: The bell-to-bell period for students receiving instruction on a school campus. This term does not apply to students receiving virtual or remote instruction away from a school campus.

e. 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 (Grades K-12) may not access any personal electronic device during the school day unless otherwise provided by law. A student is allowed to have a personal electronic device at school but the personal electronic device 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 personal 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. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action according to policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

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.

e. 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.

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

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, in accordance with policy and the Student Code of Conduct, and, depending on the circumstances, could result in criminal charges.