Board of Education Work Session
April 22, 2025

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Draft Policy 4318 | Options for Consideration

Emergency	
Initial Draft	The student needs to use the device to communicate with parents/guardians or emergency service personnel in the event of a sudden emergency.
Option A *Imminent Physical Danger*	The student needs to use the device to communicate with parents/guardians or emergency service personnel in the event of a sudden emergency. An emergency is a situation involving imminent physical danger that requires immediate communication.
Option B *Staff Empowered to Determine Need*	~~The student needs to use the device to communicate with parents/guardians or emergency service personnel in the event of a sudden emergency.~~ School staff may, in their discretion, authorize brief use of a wireless communication device if there is a reasonable and legitimate need to communicate with someone outside the school during the instructional day. Students must ask for permission in advance and must honor any specific directions from staff regarding the duration or specific time of day for any such authorized use.

Confiscation	
Initial Draft	As inappropriate student use of personal wireless communication devices may challenge student engagement in classrooms and disrupt safe, orderly school environments, and established parameters for authorized use of such devices are set forth above, unauthorized student use of personal wireless communication devices may result in consequences under policy 4309 Student Behavior – Code of Student Conduct. Consistent with that policy, the specific consequences will depend in part on the specific conduct at issue. For example, unauthorized use of a personal wireless communication device to threaten, bully, or harass others may be subject to more serious disciplinary consequences under the applicable Code of Student Conduct rules on bullying, harassment, and threats, whereas merely possessing or using a wireless communication device without authorization will ordinarily be considered only a violation of Code of Student Conduct rule I-6 (Electronic Devices). In addition to disciplinary consequences consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, school staff are authorized to temporarily confiscate a student's personal wireless communication device.

Option A Guidelines	In addition to disciplinary consequences consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, school staff are authorized to temporarily confiscate a student's personal wireless communication device if any of the following apply: ● The student does not immediately comply with this policy in response to the directives of a school employee; ● The student has repeatedly violated this policy, and the student and parents have been notified that further violations may result in immediate confiscation of the wireless communication device, or ● The student's improper use of the device substantially disrupts school events or activities or interferes with other students' ability to focus on instruction or extracurricular programming. In general, a confiscated device should be returned at the end of the class period, school event, or activity when the device was improperly used. However, a school administrator may determine that a device will be confiscated until the end of the school day if the improper use is willful, repeated, substantially disruptive, or interferes with other students' ability to focus on instruction or extracurricular programming. Additionally, a school administrator may require a parent or guardian, rather than the student, to recover a confiscated device if there is a pattern of violations during the same school year and the student and parents have been warned in writing that further violations may result in the device being held for pick-up by the parent or guardian.
Option B Site-Based	In addition to disciplinary consequences consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, school staff are authorized to temporarily confiscate a student's personal wireless communication device. Each school administration shall specify a written and consistently implemented rule regarding the temporary confiscation of student devices. The rule shall address repeated offenses and specify whether and when a device may be held for pick-up by the parent or guardian.

Liability	
Option A Not Liable *(Initial Draft)*	Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their personal wireless communication devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage of such devices.
Option B Some Liability	Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their personal wireless communication devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage of such devices unless they are lost or damaged due to the actionable negligence of school staff while in the staff's possession.

Device Status While Put Away		Considerations
Option A Powered Off and Put Away	• Winston-Salem/Forsyth (NC) • Charlotte-Mecklenburg (NC) • Cabarrus (NC) • Union (ES and MS) (NC) • Montgomery County (MD)	• No location services

Option B
Silent and Put Away
	• Fairfax County (VA)
	• Los Angeles United (CA)
	• Hillsborough County (FL)
		• Dependent devices could be connected and active
		  ○ Bluetooth headphones, earbuds
		  ○ Smartwatches
		  ○ Smartglasses
		• Bluetooth file sharing (ex. AirDrop)
		• Notifications
		• Buzzing or Vibration