

Policy JFCD: STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

25C UPDATE EXPLANATION

MSBA has created this NEW policy to comply with a new statute (§ 162.207, RSMo.) that requires districts to adopt a policy that prohibits student use of personal communication devices during the school day. Though this law has exceptions, students are generally not permitted to use phones, smartwatches, personal laptops, tablets, and other electronic personal communication devices during instructional time, mealtimes, breaks, time between classes, or study halls.

This policy applies to all students within the district for the 2025–26 school year and all subsequent school years until August 28, 2032. District employees and volunteers who act in good faith and follow the disciplinary procedures and measures adopted under this policy by the school board will be held harmless and immune from any liability for their actions. See § 162.207, RSMo., for more details.

MSBA's standard version of JG-R1 already prohibits phone use during the school day. Please check your student discipline codes, handbooks, and website to ensure they align with this policy.

The purpose of this policy is to promote an effective learning environment free from distractions so that students can focus on their studies.

Definitions

District Networks – Wired and wireless networks maintained by the district.

Emergency – A serious, unexpected, and dangerous situation that requires immediate action including, but not limited to, an active fire, active tornado or earthquake, active shooter, evacuation of school grounds, medical emergency, or any other serious, unexpected, and dangerous situation that requires immediate action.

Personal Communication Device – A portable electronic device that is used to initiate, receive, store, or view communications, information, images, or data electronically. Such devices may include cell phones, smartwatches, personal laptops, tablets, video game devices, and other portable media players.

School Day – For the purposes of this policy, the period from the official start of the instructional day until the official end of the instructional day. This includes, but is not limited to, instructional time, mealtimes, breaks, time between classes, and study halls.

Prohibited Use of Personal Communication Devices

Students are prohibited from displaying or using personal communication devices during the school day.

Disciplinary Procedures and Measures

Students who violate this policy will be subject to discipline, including potential device confiscation, as detailed in JG-R1 and the student handbook.

Exceptions and Permitted Uses

Students may display and use a personal communication device during the school day in the following circumstances:

1. In the case of an emergency.
2. When authorized to use such a device for an educational purpose.
3. When the district determines that the display or use is legally necessary to comply with any of the following:
 - An individualized education program (IEP).
 - A 504 plan.

- An individualized emergency healthcare plan or an individualized healthcare plan established under § 167.625.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- The Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974.

Use for Educational Purposes

The superintendent, principal, or designee may authorize student use of personal communication devices for educational purposes. Such use shall be consistent with the educational objectives of the district. Possession or use of personal communication devices must not in any way disrupt the district's educational process, endanger the health or safety of the student or any other person in the district, invade the rights of others at school, or involve illegal or prohibited conduct.

District Responsibility

The district will not be responsible for technological support of students' personal communication devices. Students who bring personal communication devices to school do so at their own risk. The district assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, damaged, or misplaced devices.

Notification and Authorization

The district will publish this policy on the district's website and give appropriate notice to parents/guardians and students.

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Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State

§ 162.207, RSMo.

Description

[State Statute](#)

Cross References

EHB

EHB-AP(1)

Description

[TECHNOLOGY USAGE](#)

[TECHNOLOGY USAGE - \(Technology Safety\)](#)