

Policy 3265: Electronic Communication Devices

Status: DRAFT - 2nd
Reading

Original Adopted Date: Pending

Although the Caldwell School District recognizes the importance of technology in the educational setting, electronic communication devices, like cell phones, pose a significant distraction to the learning environment. A growing body of evidence suggests that student access to cell phones and other electronic communication devices is detrimental to students' emotional well-being and academic growth. ~~Therefore, the use of electronic communication devices at school is prohibited, unless otherwise noted in this policy.~~

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions will apply:

1.1.1 Device: All personal electronic communication devices, including but not limited to, the following personal devices and accessories used for communication and entertainment:

- Cellular mobile devices of any type, including but not limited to, smartphones, flip phones, and smartwatches;
- AirPods or other wireless headphones;
- Personal digital assistants (PDA);
- Digital audio players/recorders;
- Digital video players/recorders;
- Digital or film cameras;
- Tablets, netbooks, laptops, and other computers

1.1.2 School Day: From the official school start time to the end of the day, school dismissal, including class periods, passing periods, free periods, lunch periods, recess, and assemblies.

SECTION 2. DEVICES DURING SCHOOL DAY

2.1 Students must keep their devices powered off ~~and stored~~ out of sight ~~in their backpack, bag, locker, or other designated storage area and or not on their person~~ while on school campuses for the duration of the school day, with the exception that high school students (9-12) may use their devices during their lunch period. ~~Devices may not be stored or carried on their person while in class.~~

~~2.2 Each school's procedures will determine where~~ Students should store devices during the school day, ~~such as in a their separate~~ backpack, bag, locker, cubby, etc., ~~but the device must not be seen or heard.~~

2.3 The use of cell phones and/or electronic communication devices is strictly prohibited at all times in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or school-related events. Devices used in locker rooms or restroom areas will be confiscated.

2.4 Corded or plug-in headphones are allowable for use with district-issued devices.

2.5 The use of cell phones and/or electronic communication devices contained in this policy may not apply to special education or Section 504 students or students with an Individualized Education Plan. If a student's IEP team determines that the use of a personal electronic communication device is required and documents it on the IEP, all procedures under the IDEA must be followed.

2.6 The school principal retains the authority to exercise discretion regarding the use of cell phones on school premises and may permit exceptions based on individual circumstances or special needs. Any such permissions will be granted on a case-by-case basis and shall align with the school's educational goals and safety protocols.

2.7 Students may use an electronic communication device in the case of an emergency to contact help. For the purposes of this policy, an emergency is an event that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of any person or a risk of damage to property. If a student needs to use an electronic communication device in such an emergency, they should ensure they are in as safe a location as is feasible.

SECTION 3. COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

~~3.1 Parents should not expect to communicate directly with their children using their devices during the school day.~~ Parents who need to communicate with their child in the case of an emergency should call the school office and communicate with school personnel about the nature of the emergency. As appropriate, this will then be communicated to the student impacted by the emergency.

3.2 If necessary, students may request permission from a teacher, front office staff member, or other Caldwell School District employee to utilize a school phone to call parents/guardians during the school day.

SECTION 4. CONDUCT

4.1 Students may not use devices (nor district-issued devices) in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, violates student conduct rules, or violates the rights of others. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Using any device (or district-issued device) to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms;
- Cheating;
- Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction or non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images (i.e., sexting);
- Recording, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing any act of violence, fighting, or vandalism of property;
- Creating a level of fear, anxiety, or hysteria from the sending and sharing of threats of violence, acts of terrorism, mediated assault or battery;
- Inappropriate use of any device (or district-issued device) at other school activities or events, on or off campus, either during or outside the school day;
- Cyberbullying.

SECTION 5. TESTING

5.1 A student participating in AP testing, state testing, or any other testing must turn off all devices and store them away from the testing area. Students who do not comply may be disciplined up to and including ~~expulsion~~, invalidation of the student's test, ~~and~~ possibly the invalidation of other students' tests, ~~and~~ ~~expulsion~~.

SECTION 6. RESPONSIBILITY

6.1 Caldwell School District is not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to any device brought to school. ~~If the device is confiscated for violation of District policy and/or procedures, the District and its employees shall not be responsible for safekeeping, loss, or damage.~~

6.2 School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's device or account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

~~6.3 This policy will be strictly and fairly enforced by all District personnel.~~

SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF POLICY

7.1 The Superintendent/designee shall inform staff, students, and parents/guardians about this policy and how it will be implemented. The Superintendent/designee shall develop practices that reinforce the importance of and ways of addressing:

- a. Digital literacy lessons;
- b. The effects of cyberbullying;

- c. Privacy concerns; and
- d. Online disinformation.

7.2 The Superintendent shall report to the Board each year about the effectiveness of this policy and shall recommend changes to it as needed.

State of Idaho Executive Order References	Description
2024-11	Phone Free Learning Act
Cross References	Description
3270	District Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks
3270P-Procedure(1)	Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks
3330	Student Discipline
3563	Student Tracking Safety Devices