

Policy 503.09: Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 10/28/2024 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/12/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 08/12/2025

In order to promote the best educational experience, students should feel connected to their educational environment and to others in the school community. Building meaningful connections can occur in a variety of ways. Technology has advanced peoples' ability to connect with one another across a variety of virtual platforms, and when used appropriately, adds value to the learning environment. However, it is vital to the developmental health and growth of students that the district provides opportunities for students to connect with peers and other members of their school community in-person whenever possible. In-person learning and interactions teach vital life and social skills that students will need for their continued success in the community.

For this reason, student use of personal electronic devices during instructional time is prohibited. Students have access to district-owned electronic devices as appropriate for the instructional needs of the learning environment and authorized by the classroom teacher. Parents or guardians who need to communicate with students during instructional time may contact the school building attendance office. If there is an emergency requiring a student's immediate attention, a parent or guardian should again contact the school attendance office. In the event of an emergency, the school will contact the parent or guardian by the methods listed by the parent in the school's student information system. In the event of an emergency involving the broader school community, the school will contact parents and guardians by ParentSquare, the districts official school-to-home communication platform, when it's safe to do so.

Personal electronic devices means any device that is capable of electronically communicating, sending, receiving, storing, recording, reproducing and/or displaying information and data. This may include but is not limited to electronic communication equipment, mobile phones, smart phones, smart watches, video game devices and portable media players. Secondary (7-12) students may wear smart or electronic watches but may not use any communication applications or features that are prohibited from use on other electronic devices and all notifications must be turned off. Personal electronic devices that have been specifically authorized under a current individual education plan (IEP), a Section 504 plan, or an Individual Health Plan (IHP) are exempt from this policy. For purposes of this policy, instructional time is defined as the time from the beginning of class bell through the end of class bell. For students in grades K-8, electronic devices are not permitted at any point during the school day. Students in grades 9-12 are allowed to use electronic devices during lunch, study hall and passing periods. Instructional time does not include participation in a school-sponsored activity.

The following are the district-provided educational technologies and devices that will be made available to students for instructional purposes:

District-provided desktop, laptop, or tablet will be available to students, as needed, for instructional purposes.

Parents or guardians of students may request to building-level administration that a student retain access to the student's personal electronic device during instructional time if the parent or guardian can establish there is a legitimate reason related to the student's mental or physical health to retain access during instructional time. The reason must be tied to the student's multi-tiered system of support framework. Any denials may be appealed to the Superintendent, who will be the final decisionmaker on the request.

Students who choose to use personal electronic devices outside instructional time but while on school property, at school-sponsored events, or in a manner that may impact the educational environment must use these devices in accordance with all applicable laws and board policies. Internet and digital device use is also outlined in DCG Board Policy 605.06-R(1). Students who violate this policy may face disciplinary consequences up to and including suspension or expulsion. The Superintendent, in conjunction with building-level administration, will develop administrative regulations in accordance with this policy.

Legal References:

16 C.F.R. 312
34 C.F.R pt. 99
47 C.F.R. 54.520
Iowa Code 279.8
