

Schulenburg ISD Cellular Device Policy

Effective August 2018

Schulenburg ISD students are allowed to possess cell phones and other cellular devices, such as a smart watch, on campus. For the intents and purposes of this policy, the term cell phone will be used to refer to all cellular devices capable of transmitting or receiving phone calls or messages, including but not limited to cell phones and smart watches. Students must have administrative approval to possess other personal electronic or telecommunication devices including but not limited to laptops, tablets, MP3 players, cameras, games, and video or audio players/recorders.

The use of a cell phone or other cellular device on school property is a privilege – not a right – and can be withdrawn if abused. Students who are in possession of a cellular device on school property must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Acceptable Use Policy, and all Board policies governing technology, in addition to the following rules and guidelines:

Elementary Campus (PreK-5th):

- Students are not to have cell phones on their person during the school day.
- If a parent wishes a student to have access to a cell phone for after school use, the device should be turned off and remain in the student's backpack during the school day (8:00am-3:30pm).

Secondary Campus (6th-12th):

- Secondary students are allowed to possess cell phones and other cellular devices on campus for use during non-instructional times only (before school, after-school, lunch, and between classes.)
- Cell phones must always be in silent mode when on school property, even during allowable use times. *NOTE: Vibrate is not silent. Be sure phone is silenced – not on vibrate!*
- Cell phones cannot be visible during instructional times. Students should secure them appropriately out of sight.
- Instructional time is defined as the time from the tardy bell to the dismissal bell for each class period.
- Students may not use their cell phones during Power Time, study hall periods, or in the library. These are considered instructional times.
- Checking messages or texting on any cellular device during instructional time is prohibited.
- This rule applies to all students including office aides, students who arrive late or leave early, and/or students who are in the hallways or in the restrooms during instructional times as defined above, whether or not they are assigned to a class at that time.
- Cell phones should be charged prior to school and run on battery power while at school.
- Students may not connect to any school device or charge their phones at school.
- The use of cell phones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms and restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.
- Students who need to leave early for appointments or illness must check out through the front office and/or nurse. Students cannot just call or text home and leave. (See *Leaving Campus* in the SISD Student Handbook for more information.)
- Additional restrictions are required of students in disciplinary settings (detention, ISS, DAEP...)

Violations of this policy will result in the following consequences:

- The cell phone will be confiscated and turned in to the campus office. It will be returned to the student, parent or guardian at the end of the school day.
- A \$15 administrative fee for each violation will be collected in accordance with board policy and Texas Education Code 37.082.
- Additional consequences will be applied in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and the campus discipline management plan.

Any violation of this policy which causes or involves a distraction or interruption of transportation, interferes with learning or the instructional environment, or leads to the violation of other district rules or policies will be subject to more severe disciplinary action according to the Student Code of Conduct and the campus discipline management plan.

Failure to comply with a staff directive to turn in a cell phone or other cellular device will be considered defiance of authority and the student will be subject to more severe disciplinary action according to the Student Code of Conduct and the campus discipline management plan.

School administrators may view the content of any device believed to be used in an inappropriate manner to access prohibited websites or in violation of the District's Acceptable Use Policy or the Student Code of Conduct. If the cell phone or other cellular device is locked or password protected, the student will be required to unlock the device at the request of the school administrator.

As with any personal items brought to school, the district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones, cellular devices or electronic devices, including lost or corrupted data.

PARENTS: It is critical that you communicate with your child and support efforts by the school to ensure quality instructional time without distraction or interference of classroom learning because of cellular devices. You can help by doing the following:

- Emphasize that each user is responsible for his/her own cell phone and should use it responsibly and appropriately or disciplinary consequences could apply.
- Ensure that your child understands that he/she is responsible for the security of his/her cell phone. The district is not liable for stolen, lost, or damaged cell phones or other devices.
- Do not call, text, or message your student during the school day. If your child answers or checks messages during instructional times, consequences will apply as explained above.
- If you need to contact your student during the school day, please call the school office. We will be happy to assist you.
- Understand that the school has phones available for student use in the campus offices (with appropriate permission from the teacher, administrator, or office personnel.)
- Communicate any concerns with appropriate school personnel in a timely manner.

*** THIS POLICY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED BY ALL SCHOOL PERSONNEL ***

Please feel free to contact the appropriate campus administrator or district superintendent with any questions or concerns.