

**STUDENTS**  
**Series 500**

Policy Title Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices Code No. 503.09-R(1)

The district is committed to providing an inclusive educational environment for students and families. It is valuable for students' educational experience for families to engage in and support their students' educational experience. As part of this commitment, the district will take steps to create opportunities for students to engage in peer-to-peer activities, and ensure that student use of personal electronic devices does not occur during instructional time.

Every district staff member is empowered to assist in the enforcement of this policy and regulation as appropriate. To avoid distraction during instructional time, personal electronic devices must be silenced or turned off, not visible, and not physically attached to the student's body. Students may store their personal electronic devices in their backpacks, unless otherwise instructed. Staff members may establish classroom rules or protocols for placement of personal electronic devices during instructional times consistent with this regulation. If a student is observed using a personal electronic device during instructional time, the employee who observed the student behavior will notify building administration, who will require the student to turn in the device for safekeeping until the end of the school day. The device will be secured in the building's front office. The district, however, is not responsible for the loss, theft, or destruction of personal electronic devices brought onto school, or district property, or while the student is attending district or school-sponsored events.

For a student's first violation of this policy, the student may pick up the device at the end of the school day and the student's parent/guardian will be notified. For subsequent violations of this policy, the device will be released to the student's parent/guardian following a meeting with the student and the student's parent/guardian to create a plan to avoid further violations. If a student in violation of this policy refuses to turn over their device, they may be sent home for the remainder of the school day. Repeated violations of this policy may result in additional disciplinary consequences for students in accordance with board policy.

**Note:** This regulation is optional, as is the language. All the language of this regulation should be amended to suit the unique needs of your district. Historically, cell phone bans in school buildings have been enforced unequally between classrooms. The language above is intended to create a more uniform enforcement approach by having building administration handle the enforcement of the students in violation of this policy, and minimize disruption within the learning environment. Some districts may choose to require turning in all students' personal electronic devices at the beginning of instructional time each day. Districts who choose to do so, should proceed only after weighing their own risk of loss of personal electronic devices.

Legal References: Iowa Code § 279.8 Directors – General Rules – Bonds of Employees  
16 C.F.R. 312 Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule  
34 C.F.R. Pt. 99 Education – Family Rights and Privacy  
47 C.F.R. 54.520 Communications – Children’s Internet Protection  
Act

Cross Reference: 401.12 Employee Use of Cell Phones

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