

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board
Title	Cellphones and Electronic Communications Devices by Students
Code	JFCK
Status	
Last Revised	December 9, 2024

Use of Cellphones and Electronic Communications Devices by Students

Recognizing the impact of student cellphone use on student mental health and achievement and the distractions cellphones present within the classroom, use of student cellphones must be as limited as possible during school hours.

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop procedures governing student use of cellphones that:

- 1. limit student use of cellphones during the school day as much as possible;**
- 2. reduce cellphone related distractions in the classroom as much as possible and**
- 3. permit a student to use a cellphone or other electronic communications device for student learning or to monitor or address a health concern if included in a student's individualized education program or plan, a 504 plan or other reason deemed appropriate by the Superintendent/designee to monitor a student health concern.**

Such procedures must be included in all student handbooks. Student cellphones and electronic communications devices may only be used in compliance with these procedures. Students violating District procedures or building regulations for use of cellphones and other electronic communications devices may have their phone or device confiscated and may be subject to discipline.

The Board reserves the right to restrict all student cellphone use during the school day.

The District assumes no liability if a student's phone or electronic communications device is broken, lost or stolen. Notices of this policy are posted in a central location in every school building, in the student handbooks and posted in a prominent location on the District website.

Legal References

729 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 USC
 ORC 3313.20
 ORC 3313.753
 ORC Chapter 3323

Cross References

AC - Nondiscrimination
 EDE - Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)
 JFC - Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
 JFCEA - Gangs
 JFCF - Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)
 Student Handbooks

NOTE: House Bill 250 (2024) requires boards to adopt a policy governing the use of cellular telephones by students during school hours no later than July 1, 2025. The policy must:

- *emphasize that student cellphone use be as limited as possible during school hours;*
- *reduce cellphone-related distractions in classroom settings and*
- *permit a student to use cellphones or other electronic communications devices for student learning or to monitor or address a health concern if determined appropriate by the Board or if included in a student's individualized education program.*

The bill does not require that a board adopt a policy prohibiting all student cellphone use, but the new provisions clearly state that adopting such a policy will be considered to have met the bill's requirements.

The policy must be adopted at a public meeting (which is true of all Board policies) and posted on a prominent location of the District's publicly accessible website.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) was required to release a model policy aligned with the new requirements. Districts may choose to use the ODEW model but are not required to do so.

THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY

Legal

[Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 USC 729](#)

[ORC 3313.20](#)

[ORC 3313.753](#)

[ORC Chapter 3323](#)