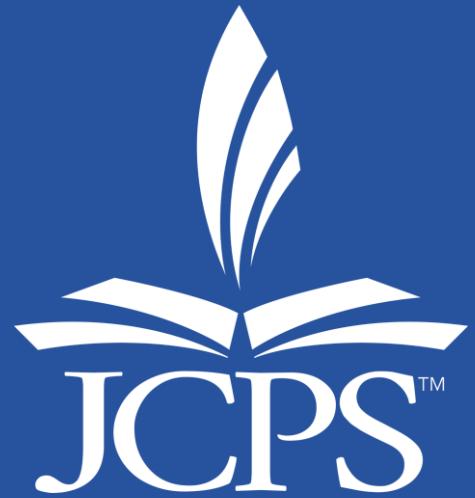


CELL PHONE POLICY

April 29, 2025



House Bill 208 Passed by 2025 General Assembly

House Bill 208 requires local boards of education to adopt a cell phone policy that, at a minimum, prohibits student cell phone during instructional time.

- Allows policy to be more restrictive and prohibit cell phone use for the entirety of the school day.
- Provides exceptions for emergencies, student disability accommodations and medical management.

District-Level Policy Considerations

During Board discussion on February 25, the following items were prioritized:

- Make changes to our existing Board Policy
- Create a standardized district-wide policy allowing for some school-level discretion in terms of planning, implementation, and progressive discipline
- Do not differentiate by level
- Prohibit all use of cell phones during instructional time
- Allow schools to make decisions about how they will store and/or handle devices
- Provide exceptions for medical monitoring and emergencies vs. no exceptions

District-Level Implementation Considerations

After working with stakeholders to create a policy draft, considerations for effective implementation include:

- Deploying intentional socialization of expectations for students, parents, and school employees as part of school level plans
- Have plans approved by Zone/Level Assistant Superintendent
- Ensure implementation plans consider the time on task for teachers
- Provide training to ensure equitable and uniform enforcement within a school and include mechanisms to ensure accountability
- Require plans to include progressive behavior consequences to minimize student loss of instructional time through removal from classroom or suspension

Major Components of New School-Based Cell Phone Policy

**Collaborative team of school staff
develops a policy & implementation
plan, to include:**

- Timeline
- Collect stakeholder input & best practice research
- Develop communication and socialization strategy (students, parents, staff)
- Build team consensus for policy components
- Create implementation plan

School-Based Policy Choices

- Prohibit cell phone during instructional time vs the entire school day
- Allow students to retain access to phones or deploy pouches or other mechanisms
- Provide clarity regarding administrative support for teachers
- Determine standards for equitable enforcement using progressive discipline

Key Implementation Plan Components

- Develop protocols for monitoring & compliance checks
- Establish processes for exemptions (IEP, ADA, 504, medical monitoring)
- Develop procedures for arrival & dismissal, field trips, and messages from parents/guardians
- Establish protocol for cell phone access in an emergency
- Organize training for staff & scrimmage scenarios



Feedback Process

The Cell Phone Policy Committee is required to gather stakeholder input from:

- Teachers
- Classified Employees
- Administrators
- Students
- Parent/Guardians

Provide baseline information regarding the requirements and options for a cell phone policy

Then gather input

- Surveys
- School forums
- Role group meetings
- Other mechanisms

District support and accountability for schools as they plan and implement:

- Offer guidance in the development of policy and implementation plan**
- Provide access to research and resources**
- Review and approve policies, implementation plans, and REAPs by Assistant Superintendents**
- Provide going monitoring and support for implementation improvements**
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities for principals**

Accountability for Effective Implementation

Internal Audit Implementation Review

Mid-year and end-of-year reviews in 2025-26 to investigate:

- Fidelity of implementation
- Changes to amount cell phone use by students
- Changes to behavior referrals
- Impact on school culture and access to student learning
- Other areas determined by District leadership

Suggested Timeline and Next Steps

April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools Division met to discuss policy and resources to provide for schools• Schools Division met to develop expectations, guidelines and timelines for schools
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools create committees based on district policy• Surveys sent to stakeholders and results are reviewed by cell phone policy committee• Schools develop a draft of their policy and take it through the REAP• Some school SBDMs will have the first reading of policy
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School SBDMs complete the first readings of new policy• Some school SBDMs will start second readings of their policy• Committee meets to discuss revisions

Suggested Timeline and Next Steps cont.

July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second committee meeting to revise any changes based on feedback• Schools complete second reading of new policy• Schools submit policies to Assistant Superintendents for approval• Schools communicate new policy to families, students, and staff
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools train staff/students on new policy and implementation• Possible third committee meeting to discuss implementation adjustments of the plan
Sept. - Dec.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regularly scheduled committee meetings to review the implementation of the plan• Review referral data for implementation monitoring and compliance reporting• Schools collect feedback regarding new policy & policy implementation