

STUDENTS

Personal Communication Devices

POLICY STATEMENT

The use of personal devices during school hours may serve as a distraction to students and instructors. This policy aims to foster a conducive learning environment by minimizing distractions and promoting focused engagement during school hours.

DEFINITION

A “personal communication device” is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor, or another person, including, but not limited to, a paging device, a cellular telephone, MP3 players, iPhones, iPods, iPads, communicable and/or smart watches, electronic notebooks, netbooks, tablet computers and e-readers.

POSSESSION AND USE

While on school property or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities, whether on or off school property, students shall be permitted to possess and use personal telecommunications devices as defined by law¹ and other related electronic devices, provided they observe the following conditions:

1. Unless an emergency situation exists that involves imminent physical danger or a certified employee authorizes the student to do otherwise, personal communication devices shall be turned on and operated only before and after the regular school day.
2. Such devices shall not be used during the regular school day which includes the following periods:
 - a. Oldham County Elementary Schools: 7:40 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.
 - b. Oldham County Middle Schools: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - c. Oldham County High Schools: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm.
 - d. Buckner High School: 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
3. During regular school hours, personal devices must be completely silenced and out of sight. Students may keep devices in their bag, backpack, purse, etc.
4. Devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, including, but not limited to, use that:
 - a. Poses a threat to academic integrity, such as cheating;
 - b. Violates confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual. This includes, but is not limited to, taking photographs, video, or audio recordings of others without the permission of the Principal/designee and the affected individual(s). An exception may be made for events considered to be in the public arena (e.g. sporting events, academic competitions, or performances to which the general public is admitted) where the activity does not materially disrupt the event, prevent others from observing the event, or otherwise violate legal rights. School social events for students, activities sponsored by student clubs, and activities during the school day that are not open to the public are not considered to be in the public arena;
 - c. Is profane, indecent, or obscene;

- d. Constitutes or promotes illegal activity or activity in violation of school rules; or
- e. Constitutes or promotes sending, sharing, or possessing sexually explicit messages, photographs, or images using any electronic device.

These restrictions shall not be interpreted to prohibit material protected under the state or federal constitutions where such material does not otherwise materially or substantially disrupt the education process or intrude upon the rights of others.

- 5. When students violate prohibitions of this policy, they shall be subject to disciplinary action, including the following:
 - a. First Offense: Student referral, parent phone call, and confiscation of the personal communication or personal electronic device, which shall only be returned to the student's parent or guardian at the conclusion of the school day.
 - b. Second Offense: Attendance at the next-scheduled detention, along with first offense consequences.
 - c. Third Offense: One day of in-school suspension (OCATS or on-site) along with second offense consequences.
 - d. Additional offenses: Third offense consequences, in addition to potential suspension at the discretion of the District.
- 6. Parents or guardians may retrieve forfeited student devices during regular office hours.
- 7. Students are responsible for devices they bring to Oldham County schools. The District shall not be responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of devices brought onto school property.
- 8. Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning appropriate use of personal communication or other electronic devices.
- 9. The use of a personal communication device for instructional purposes must be approved by administration prior to usage in the classroom.
- 10. Students shall not utilize a personal communication or similar electronic device in a manner that would violate the District's Acceptable Use policy or procedures or its Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline.

STUDENTS

[SECTION NUMBER]

(CONTINUED)

Personal Communication Devices

NOTICE OF POLICY

Notice of this policy and penalties for violating it shall be published annually in the District's Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline.

REFERENCES:

¹KRS 158.165
KRS 525.080

RELATED POLICIES:

08.2323; 09.426; 09.436; 09.438

Adopted/Amended: XX/XX/2025
Order #: