

DRAFT BOARD POLICY ON CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS

Shelby City Schools, in accordance with the legal provisions of HB 250 and ORC 3313.753, firmly believes that cellular devices and any technology that serves as a communication device (Smart Watches, etc.) are a distraction from the educational environment and should not be allowed.

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The Board of Education of Shelby City Schools has determined that cell phone use during school hours should be limited to support school environments where students can fully engage with their classmates, teachers, and instruction.

This policy aims to strengthen Shelby City School District's focus on our mission to maximize learning for each student, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

I. Research

Research shows that student use of cell phones in school adversely affects student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

II. Applicability

This policy applies to students' use of cell phones or other communication devices, including but not limited to Smart Watches, while on school property during school hours.

III. Use of cell phones

Students are prohibited from using cell phones at all times during school hours. This includes lunch, study halls, or during class changes.

IV. Exceptions

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone for a purpose documented in the student's individual education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under Section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.

A student may use a cell phone to monitor or address a health concern, documented with the school nurse.

A school administrator may allow students to have cell phones under the supervision of a staff member for emergency reasons. The building principal must pre-approve this provision.

V. Cell phone storage

Students shall keep their cell phones in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district when cell phone use is prohibited. Shelby City Schools is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or electronic communication devices brought to school.

VI. Discipline

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator shall take the following progressive discipline measures:

1. Give a student a verbal warning and require the student to store the student's cell phone or other electronic communication device in accordance with this policy.
2. Securely store the student's cell phone in an administrator-controlled area for the duration of the school day.
3. Securely store the student's cell phone in an administrator-controlled area until a parent or guardian can pick up the device during school hours.
4. Discipline measures following the Student Handbook for insubordination include but are not limited to:
 - a. In-School Suspension,
 - b. A complete denial of privileges of bringing a cell phone to school as it applies to Ohio's Cell Phone Ban in Schools described in ORC 3313.753,
 - c. Other disciplinary actions as appropriate for the infraction as determined by the school and district administration.