

NSS Ohio Columbus
Electronic Device Policy

The purpose of this policy is to create an optimal learning environment. It is essential that students can focus, actively participate, and engage in their studies. Unfortunately, we have observed that excessive use of cell phone and other electronic devices during school hours has been hindering students' ability to fully participate in their education, leading to a decline in academic performance. We firmly believe that it is our duty to provide the best educational services possible, and we have identified electronic devices as a significant barrier to achieving this goal.

- Research
 - Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on 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.
- Applicability
 - This policy will apply to all students, unless otherwise stipulated in a student's individualized education plan, behavior intervention plan, or to monitor or address a health concern.
- General electronic device expectations and guidelines
 - Students may not access device camera or microphone (i.e. taking pictures, videos, audio recording, phone calls, video calls, etc.)
 - Students may not access, submit, post, publish, forward, download, scan or display defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, sexually suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing, bullying and/or illegal materials, images (still or video) or messages.
 - Students are prohibited from using any electronic device containing built in cameras in locker rooms, classrooms, and bathroom areas.
 - Students are prohibited from using an electronic device to disrupt the learning environment or educational process within the school building.
 - Students are prohibited from using an electronic device in any way that may reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed, or intimidated as outlined in NSO's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy.
 - Students may not use any electronic device (unless otherwise stated in accommodations section of their IEP) during any standardized or summative assessments.
 - During designated times (green zone) when listening to music or videos, students will use headphones (headphones will be provided if the student does not have their own).
 - During designated times (green zone) students will view school appropriate content on their device.

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- Use of cell phones
 - Students are prohibited from using cell phones outside of designated times (green zone).
 - Designated times (green zone) include:
 - HS:
 - Before school (8:15-8:30).
 - Lunch (12:04-12:38).
 - After school (2:30-2:40).
 - K-8:
 - Before school (8:15-8:30).
 - Lunch (11:30-12:00).
 - After school (2:30-2:40).
- Cell phone storage
 - Students who elect to bring a cell phone to school will be required to place cell phones into designated storage areas in their homeroom class.
 - Staff may retrieve cell phones for students during designated times.
 - Students must return cell phones to the designated storage areas after designated time ends.
- Other devices
 - The school reserves the right to determine other devices that may fall under this policy (i.e. handheld gaming devices, laptops, MP3 or other music players, etc.).
- Inappropriate use of school devices (laptops, iPads, computers, etc.)
 - During instructional time, students will remain on the learning platform unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Policy violations
 - If a student violates this policy, staff shall take the following progressively serious measures:
 - Give the student a verbal warning and require the student to store or utilize the device in accordance with this policy.
 - Place the student's device in an administrative office for the remainder of the day.
 - If a school device, meant for educational purposes, the student will be placed on paper and pencil work for the remainder of the day.
 - Place the student's device in an administrative office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.
 - If a school device, meant for educational purposes, the student will be placed on paper and pencil work for no shorter than 20 consecutive school days.
 - Schedule a conference with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the student's device usage.