

# **Portland Public School District 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**DATE OF FIRST READING: December 03, 2024**

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR**

**New Policy x.xx.xxx-P:**

**Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices in Schools**

The Portland Public School District is providing Notice of Proposed Revised Policy and

**Included in Packet**

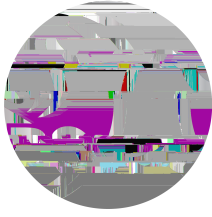
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PPS Board of Education

Dr. Jon Franco, Chief of Schools

Superintendent Kimberlee Armstrong

: Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices in Schools

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Discussion of creating a cell phone policy began in the Board Policy Committee in its April 29, 2024, committee meeting. In subsequent committee meetings, the committee reviewed literature on the impact of school cell phone policies and example policies from different school districts. Input from the community led to this proposed draft for First Reading.

During the Committee's discussions, questions were raised about the disciplinary implications of the policy, as well as the need for curriculum and other supports addressing the impacts of cell phone use on students. Staff presented information on the discipline matrix found in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook outlining the continuum of progressive discipline for different violations of cell phone use such as Minor/Major Insubordination, Minor/Major Technology Violation, and Cyberbullying. Additionally, the staff is developing district-wide cellphone guidance for schools to provide consistent responses to cell phone violations. The guidance will be finalized upon passage of the District cell phone policy. The guidance can be found [here](#).

With respect to curriculum, currently buildings are teaching lessons that address digital citizenship and are designed to prevent cyber bullying. These lessons are delivered collaboratively between OSSS (core counseling curriculum, TSEL), and OTL (Health curriculum) across grades K-12. Principals are expected to meet quarterly with their counseling team to review their building's comprehensive school counseling program, including scheduling for lesson delivery.

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8.60.040-P



## Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices in Schools X-XX-XXX-P

We are committed to supporting student mental health and wellbeing and to creating environments where students feel safe, welcome, and excited to learn. Peer and student-to-teacher interactions are fundamental to learning, and we must create the conditions that allow students to be engaged, focused, and challenged so they can reach their full potential. We are committed to understanding quality research on the use and impact of Personal Electronic Devices on the educational environment and adopting best practices as they evolve.

### 1. Definitions

“Personal Electronic Device” is a device that is capable of electronically communicating, sending, receiving, storing, recording, reproducing and/or displaying information, depictions, and/or data.

### 2. General Guidelines

- a. Personal Electronic Devices must be “off and away” throughout the school day so that the device cannot disrupt students or the learning environment unless otherwise permitted under this policy or the related Administrative Directive.
- b. **Additional Restrictions May Be Adopted by a School:** Nothing in this policy prevents a building administrator from adopting additional restrictions on the use of Personal Electronic Devices during school hours.
- c. **Discipline:** Students who do not comply with this policy or the Personal Electronic Device requirements of their school may be subject to discipline as outlined in the District’s Student Rights and Responsibility Handbook [<https://www.pps.net/Page/13621>], including having their Personal Electronic Devices confiscated.
- d. **Exceptions:** Categories of exceptions to this policy, shall include, but not be limited to:
  - complying with a student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or other requirement to access the educational programming or communication at school;
  - supporting specific academic activities as determined by a building administrator;
  - application of the policy in the District’s alternative educational programs;
  - and others as defined by the Superintendent.
- e. **No Bullying or Harassment:**

Students may not take videos or photos during school activities or

