

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

CELL PHONE POLICY

(Source: Code of Student Conduct – changes are highlighted – updated June 13, 2023)

CELL PHONE & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES *(FCBOE Policy 6.20)*

The updated Fayette County School District's cell phone policy (June 2023) is designed to ensure that the use of cell phones does not interfere with teaching and learning during the school day or with student safety.

CELL PHONES

1. The use of cell phones for any purpose – including phone calls, text messaging, games, and other functions is not permitted at any time on school grounds or while students are being transported to and from school on school buses.
2. Cell phones must not be visible during the day or while being transported to and from school on school buses. They should be stored in a secure location, such as a vehicle, pocket, purse, locker, backpack, etc.
3. Cell phones must be turned completely off (not simply on silent or vibrate mode) during the school day or while being transported to and from school on school buses.
4. Students participating in extracurricular activities and athletic events must contact their coach or sponsor for his/her rules involving cell phone use after school hours or on after-school bus trips. Coaches and sponsors will set rules and establish consequences involving the use and/or misuse of these devices.
5. The use of camera phones is strictly forbidden in private areas, such as locker rooms, washrooms, dressing rooms, classrooms, and offices at any time. Camera phone violations may be treated as a Level II or Level III Offenses, when necessary. Such violations may also be in violation of the criminal code of the state of Alabama.
6. Any phone communication during the instructional day will take place on school phones with permission from office personnel with the exception of emergency situations as deemed by the local school administration. Parents should call the school for any emergency situation.
7. Students shall not bring cell phones into a classroom where standardized testing is taking place. Teachers will collect any student cell phones into a classroom where standardized testing is being administered for that day. The possession and/or use of a cell phone during standardized testing may result in the test being invalidated and legal action being taken by the testing company.
8. This policy will be enforced irrespective of whether the student or parent owns the phone/device. Possession of a cell phone by a student is a privilege which may be forfeited by any student not abiding by the terms of this policy. Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones. The Fayette County School District shall not assume any responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone or unauthorized calls made on a cell phone.

OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices such as, but not limited to, digital cameras, camcorders, PDA's, MP3 players, and headphones, may be used as part of the instructional process with prior administrative and teacher authorization. Otherwise, these devices may not be visible during the instructional day.

Students participating in field trips, extracurricular activities, and athletic events must contact their coach or sponsor for his/her rules involving electronic device use after school hours or on field trips. Coaches and sponsors will set rules and establish consequences involving the use and/or misuse of these devices.

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Possession of electronic devices by a student is a privilege which may be forfeited by any student not abiding by the terms of this policy. Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their electronic devices. The Fayette County School District shall not assume any responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of electronic devices.

ANY VIOLATIONS OF THE CELL PHONE & ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING:

First Violation – Students will be warned and the cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated by an administrator for the remainder of that school day. The phone/device will be returned at the end of the day.

Second Violation – Cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated by an administrator until a parent comes to the school for a conference. The student will receive a 1 day in-school suspension (ISS) placement. At the parent conference, the parent may retrieve the cell phone/electronic device. The parent must then sign a form stating that they understand that upon the next violation of this policy, the student will be placed in ISS for up to 3 days and if this continues will receive an out-of school suspension.

Third Violation – The student will receive up to a 3 day ISS placement. The cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated and returned at the end of this placement.

Fourth Violation – The student will receive a 1 day out-of-school suspension (OSS).