

Portland Public School District 1st 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 Public Comment to offer interested parties reasonable opportunity to submit data or comments on the proposed policies noted below.

Public comment may be submitted in writing directly to the district or through the district website noted below. Written comments must be submitted by 5:00pm on the Last Date for Comment listed below.

**Open for Comment until at least:
December 24, 2024**

Summary: New Policy - Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices in Schools x.xx.xxx-P

1st Reading by: Director Julia Brim-Edwards

Portland Public School Board, Policy Committee Chair

Recommended for a 1st Reading by: Portland Public Schools Board of Education Policy Committee

Draft Policy Web Site: <http://www.pps.net/draftpolicies>

Contact: Rosanne Powell, Senior Board Manager
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Draft Policy Comment Form: <https://forms.gle/VqYbmVA36qqADj6n6>

Included in Packet**Page**

Staff Report

03

Draft Policy

05



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Chief of Schools

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STAFF REPORT

Date: November 15, 2024

To: PPS Board of Education

From: Dr. Jon Franco, Chief of Schools

CC: Superintendent Kimberlee Armstrong

Subject: Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices in Schools

BACKGROUND

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.

RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

8.60.040-P Responsible Technology Use

8.60.045-AD Social Media Use and Expectations for Students

FISCAL IMPACT

There may be a fiscal impact as schools determine how to implement this policy across the District. Cost comparisons for cell phone storage equipment options vary from \$8,000 to \$750,000 dollars, and further exploration is needed to determine options for implementation of the policy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

The Policy Committee heard from students, families, and the community during its public comment period. Administrators and Senior Directors also provided testimony before the committee on the various ways schools have developed cell phone policies at individual schools. Additionally, with the assistance of the Board Student Representative and the District's Office of Research, Assessment and Accountability, a survey was sent out to PPS students for input on aspects of the cell phone policy under discussion.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / EVALUATION

Many schools already have cell phone rules currently. Once the District cell phone policy is in place, communications will go out to all schools, and Staff will update the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook to align practice with the new policy. Additionally, staff is developing guidance for cell phone use which will be disseminated across the District.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the policy be approved by the Board.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Proposed Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices in Schools X.XX.XXX-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

otherwise use their Personal Electronic Devices to harass or bully another individual or otherwise violate PPS's Student Anti-harassment and Teen Dating Violence Policy
<https://www.pps.net/cms/lib/OR01913224/Centricity/Domain/4814/4.30.060-P.pdf>, PPS's student handbook, or other policy.

- f. **Equitable Support for Schools:** To the extent the District provides financial resources to schools to implement this policy, it shall do so equitably.
- g. **Individual Exceptions and Appeals:** The Superintendent shall establish a process and timeline for responding to a student's request to use a Personal Electronic Device otherwise not permitted by this policy or a school practice and any appeal of that response.