



Policy 5011: Use of Cell Phones

I. Objectives

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Governing Authority has determined the use of cell phones by students during school hours should be limited. The objective of this policy is to strengthen the School's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within the school.

II. 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.

III. Applicability

This policy applies to the use of cell phones by students while on school property during school hours.

IV. Use of cell phones

Students are prohibited from possessing and/or using cell phones or other personal communication devices during the instructional day.

V. Exceptions

If granted permission by the School Director or designee, the following exceptions apply:

- If permitted under the building's comprehensive emergency management plan adopted under section 5502.262 of the Revised Code; and/or,
- If it is included in the student's individualized 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 cellular telephones or other electronic communication devices for student learning or to monitor a health concern if the School has received a written statement from the student's physician requiring such use.



VI. Cell phone storage

Summit Academy prefers that students not bring cell phones or other personal communication devices to school. However, the School understands that some families want the students to have these during transit times to and from school. It is mandatory that these devices are turned in to the School Director or designee before the start of the instructional day. In emergencies, parents/guardians should only contact students through the School office. Students found using personal devices during class times will have them confiscated, and they will only be released to the student's parent/guardian. Students may collect their cell phones at the end of the school day from the School Director or designee.

VII. Discipline

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator shall follow the School's progressive discipline policy.

VIII. Liability

The School is not responsible or liable for lost or damaged cell phones.