

# Hamilton County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Quarterly in September, December, March, & June	Descriptor Term: <b>Cell Phone Use</b>	Descriptor Code: 6.311	Issued Date: 07/20/23
		Rescinded:	Revised:

The increase in use of cell phones and personal communication devices by students during the school day has become a significant distraction in the school environment and is impeding student learning. While there is considerable dependence on cell phones and personal communication devices, additional guidance is needed to protect valuable time for learning and foster and maintain positive school environments.

Devices are defined as cell phones, personal communication devices, and personal electronic devices including, but not limited to, wearable technology such as eyeglasses, rings, earbuds, headphones, or watches that have the capability to record, live stream, or interact with wireless technology.

Restrictions to device use:

- Taking photos or recording videos, whether by cell phone or any other device, is prohibited.
- Using cell phone cameras to record altercations on school grounds or at school events is prohibited. In such cases, phones may be confiscated as evidence and consequences will be assigned. Consequences may be issued for the person who records and/or shares an altercation.
- Cell phone recordings done outside of school that are shared by and with members of the school community and cause harm toward students and/or a significant disruption in school are prohibited.

Consequences for cell phone violations will be issued in alignment with the HCS Code of Acceptable Behavior. The consequences for violating this cell phone policy may be in addition to any other violations of the HCS Code of Acceptable Behavior. Finally, students bring cell phones and personal electronic devices to school at their own risk. School staff are not liable for lost or stolen cell phones and are not responsible to conduct any investigations regarding the loss of a student electronic device.

Students may possess devices so long as they are not seen or heard, and should be stored in closed pockets, backpacks, purses, bags, assigned locker, automobile, or other school approved location.

When technology is utilized to support the instruction of standards in the classroom, the use of chrome books should be prioritized over cell phones. The principal or his/her designee may grant a student permission to use a cell phone as a device to assist with instruction at his/her discretion. For grades 9-12, each individual school may choose to allow cell phones in designated areas during lunch period.

## STUDENT EXCEPTIONS

Students may be allowed to use a cell phone as a tool for hearing, translation, or other functions for students with a 504 Plan or IEP that articulates both the need and parameters for use. All staff will be informed if a student has an identified exception and will accommodate the student accordingly.