



HRCS Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Personal Devices Policy

Purpose

In accordance with Colorado Revised Statutes §22-1-149, this policy establishes parameters for student possession and use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices during the school day. The purpose is to minimize distractions, support a safe and focused learning environment, and promote healthy student development at High Rockies Community School (HRCS). This policy applies to all students in grades K-8 while on school grounds, during school hours, and during school-sponsored events unless otherwise stated.

Policy Statement

Students are prohibited from using cell phones or personal electronic devices during instructional time, including class periods, lunch, recess, and passing periods, unless expressly authorized by school staff under the limited exceptions below. All devices must remain turned off or in silent mode and stored out of sight during the school day.

We strongly encourage students to leave their cell phones at home, as this minimizes distractions and helps students stay fully engaged in their learning and school activities.

Exceptions

Limited exceptions may be made under the following circumstances:

1. **Emergency Situations** – A student may use a cell phone or device to communicate in a verified emergency situation as determined by school staff or emergency personnel.
2. **Medical Necessity** – Students with documented medical conditions requiring the use of electronic monitoring or communication devices (e.g., glucose monitors) may use them in accordance with a health plan approved by the school nurse or administration.
3. **Disability Accommodations** – Use of assistive technology as required by an IEP or Section 504 plan is permitted.

4. Explicit Staff Permission – A teacher or administrator may allow device use for a specific instructional purpose or other approved activity.

Enforcement and Discipline

Violations of this policy may result in the following graduated interventions:

- First Violation – Verbal reminder and confiscation for the remainder of the school day.
- Second Violation – Parent/guardian contact and requirement for the parent to retrieve the device.
- Subsequent Violations – Disciplinary action in accordance with the school's student code of conduct, which may include loss of device privileges on campus.

Confiscated devices will be stored securely and returned per school procedures. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

Parent and Guardian Notification

Parents/guardians will be informed of this policy annually and upon enrollment. The policy will be made available on the school's website and in the student handbook.