



AP L2 Student Use of Personal Digital Devices

Legislative References: *School Act*, Sections 6(1), 85(1.1), 168 (2.s.1)

Policy Reference: 210 Codes of Conduct

Collective Agreement References: None

Date: June 28, 2024

The District believes that students learn best when they are in an environment that supports learning and limits distractions. This Administrative Practice follows the expectations as described in the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order, requiring school Codes of Conduct to outline the use and restrictions of personal digital devices. It provides consistency in restricting student personal digital device use at school, particularly during instructional times, or learning related activities.

The District also recognizes the capacity with new and future technologies to create opportunities for constructive applications that can aid instruction and learning.

The use of these technologies should be balanced by requirements for safety, security, and privacy for students and staff. The restricted use of student personal digital devices creates the necessary space for focused learning and positive interpersonal connections in the classroom with fewer distractions and interruptions.

Student use of personal digital devices will be at the discretion of supervising staff. This regulated and supervised use will be critical in reinforcing responsible and respectful use of technology, and student safety from online security threats and social media. Students who do not comply with this Administrative Practice, and the expectation of use referenced in their school Code of Conduct, may be subject to progressive discipline outlined in their school's Code of Conduct.

The security and storage of personal digital devices is the sole responsibility of the owner/user. The District assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of these devices.

Personal Digital Device: Refers to any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone, a tablet, smart watches, gaming devices, and electronic toys, and includes the use of earbuds and headphones.

1. Use of Personal Digital Devices

The use of personal digital devices should be appropriate to a student's age and developmental stage. Elementary school codes of conduct take a more restrictive approach, while secondary schools allow for some flexibility and teacher agency in using personal digital devices for educational purposes.



- **Elementary Schools:** Little or no use of personal digital devices.
- **Secondary Schools:** Limited use of personal digital devices is permitted during instructional time for educational purposes, and during scheduled breaks.

All school Codes of Conduct will contain specific information and statements about restricting the use of personal digital devices during hours of instruction.

1. Accessibility and Accommodation Needs

Personal digital devices may be used to support students with disabilities or diverse abilities as outlined in students' support plans or Individual Education Plans. This includes the use of assistive technology on personal digital devices at school to support student accessibility, communication, and autonomy.

2. Medical and Health Needs

Personal digital devices may be used to support medical necessities, such as monitoring blood glucose levels for a student with diabetes.

3. Equity to Support Learning Outcomes

Considerations will be made to ensure personal digital device restrictions do not disproportionately impact some students more than others. For example, computer or cell phone access facilitated by the District to support students who do not have access to the internet outside of school and who therefore might use technology at school to complete schoolwork.

4. Digital Literacy

While we recognize the importance of setting restrictions on the use of personal digital devices, it is essential to emphasize that we still have the responsibility of teaching Digital Literacy and Online Safety. Digital Literacy is a critical skill in today's technology-driven world. We aim to empower our students to be responsible, informed, and ethical digital citizens. By integrating technology into classroom practice and providing opportunities for its use, we equip our learners with skills that encourage productivity, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.