

Cell Phone Policy Talking Points

Last Updated: 7/30/24

Code of Conduct Quicklink: rcboe.org/codeofconduct

FAQs: [Cell Phone Policy FAQ 07172024.docx](#)

Key Messages

- Tag Line: Disconnecting Distractions, Focusing on Futures
- Starting this year, cell phones and digital communications devices like Apple Watches and AirPods will be prohibited from our classrooms, hallways, and other communal areas from the time the morning bell rings to the time students are dismissed for the day.
- We heard from our community and saw the need to adapt to an ever-changing digital landscape to keep our classrooms focused on learning and achievement. More than 4,500 students, family members, and staff shared their voice, along with a disciplinary committee made up of educators, administrators and district staff.
- Student safety is always our number one priority. Emergency calls may be made in the main office, and school office staff can relay emergency messages from parents to students. Our schools are committed to providing timely and clear communications to our families during the school day.

Why did you create this policy? How did it come about?

- We heard from our community and saw the need to adapt to an ever-changing digital landscape to keep our classrooms focused on learning and achievement.
- More than 4,500 students, family members, and staff shared their voice through a community survey.
 - 83% of parents and community members said there should be some form of restriction on cell phone usage during school hours
 - 67% of staff surveyed said they viewed cell phone usage in the classroom as incredibly distracting
 - 79% of staff think cell phones can have negative impacts on student's social interaction at school

What are the benefits of the new policy?

- **Connection:** The aim of this new policy is not just to minimize distractions in the classroom, but maximize connections between teachers and students and students with each other
- **Enhanced Learning Environment:**
 - Reduces distractions in the classroom, allowing students to focus better on their studies.
 - Promotes active engagement and participation during instructional time.
- **Improved Academic Performance:** Maximizes instructional time by minimizing interruptions caused by cell phone use.
- **Fosters Social Interaction:** Encourages face-to-face communication and collaboration among students.
- **Safety and Security:**
 - Reduces the risk of cyberbullying and inappropriate content sharing during school hours.
 - Helps prevent unauthorized recording and distribution of images and videos, protecting students' privacy.

What do you say to students and families who are going to be upset about this change?

- Acknowledge their concerns, and share that we understand that this is a big adjustment for our whole community.
- Share details about the benefits above, and be clear about how parents and guardians can communicate with schools during the school day.
- Encourage them to update their information in ParentPortal for communication purposes.