

## CELLULAR TELEPHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Jefferson Davis Parish School Board is dedicated to providing a sound education to public school students. The School Board recognizes that the use of cell phones and other electronic devices, with their rapidly developing technological advances which now include text messaging and photography, can impair the validity of classroom assessments, violate student privacy, hamper the efforts of administrators charged with maintaining a safe and productive school environment and seriously disrupt the educational process.

No student, unless authorized by the school principal or his/her designee, shall use or operate any electronic telecommunication device, including any facsimile system, radio paging service, mobile telephone service, intercom, or electro-mechanical paging system in any elementary or secondary school building, or on the grounds thereof during the instructional day, or in any school bus used to transport public school students. *Use or operation* of an electronic telecommunication device shall mean the device is either visible, turned on or is in a mode capable of receiving or transmitting signals. The *instructional day* shall begin at the time students arrive on campus prior to the take-in bell and conclude upon the dismissal bell at the end of the day.

No student, unless authorized by the school principal or his/her designee, shall possess, on his/her person, an electronic telecommunication device throughout the instructional day, including wearable technology capable of sending or receiving text messages and other similar notifications.

If a student brings an electronic telecommunication device in any public elementary or secondary school building or on the grounds thereof during an instructional day, the electronic device shall either be turned off and properly stowed away for the duration of the instructional day or prohibited from being turned on and used during the instructional day. Electronic telecommunication devices, shall include, but not be limited to, cellular telephones, personal computers, laptops, electronic instruments, iPads, iPods, wearable technology such as smartwatches, tablet devices, e-readers, or similar devices.

These provisions shall not apply to any school-sponsored event, including athletic competitions and field trips, which take place during an instructional day.

These provisions shall not be applicable to a student whose Individualized Education Program, Individualized Accommodation Plan, Section 504 plan, or Individualized Health Plan requires the student's use of an electronic telecommunication device.

During the instructional day, parents or guardians may contact students through the school's office.

Students shall not utilize school-issued devices to access personal messaging features and social media accounts not used for educational purposes.

Jefferson Davis Parish School Board shall not be responsible for any electronic device carried onto the school campus by a student or parent. Photographing, audio recording, or videotaping of any persons, activities/incidents/etc. during the instructional day or in any school bus is strictly prohibited unless authorized by the school principal or his/her designee.

A violation of these provisions may be grounds for disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and/or expulsion from school, as detailed in the *Student Code of Conduct*.

Revised: August, 2003  
Revised: February, 2006  
Revised: June 21, 2018  
Revised: July 18, 2024  
Revised: February 20, 2025

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:239, 17:416, 17:416.1; *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, Bulletin 741, Louisiana Department of Education; Board minutes, 10-16-03, 3-16-06, 6-21-18, 7-18-24, 2-20-25.