

NEW GUIDELINES FOR 2024-2025 STUDENT PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES/ CELL PHONES/PAGERS/ACCESSORIES

CELL PHONE/PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES GUIDELINES

In an effort to improve the learning environment and better student relationships, Sumter County Schools has new guidelines for the use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices, effective August 2024.

CELL PHONE POLICY

K-6 “Students in elementary grades may not possess “non-school issued” personal devices on school grounds.”

7-12 “Students in grades seven through twelve are permitted to possess such personal devices at school, but must keep their own personal wireless devices, other than the school issued devices, in the school office, or other locations approved by the principal or his/her designee.”

*** Beginning August 8, 2024, cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and other electronic devices will be secured in **YONDR** pouches for the duration of the instructional day.

WHY ARE WE MAKING THIS CHANGE

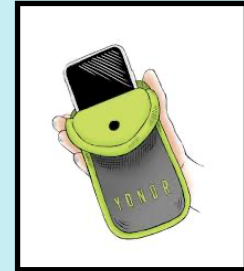
A significant number of students have their phones and other electronic devices out during instructional time which has resulted in a significant educational distraction. Having access to cell phones in free periods like lunch, restroom breaks, and passing classes also contributes to negative interactions among students which has led to physical conflict and emotional distress.

REVIEW AND REFLECTION

Upon implementation of the **YONDR** pouches for the 2024-2025 school year, it is expected the district will see improvements in academic performance, student behavior, and student engagement.

At the end of the school year, implementation of **YONDR** pouches will be evaluated, and its continued use will be determined.

HOW IT WORKS



Each 7th-12th grader will be assigned a **YONDR** pouch. They will be responsible for their pouch throughout the school day.



Upon arrival, students will turn their electronic devices off, place them in the pouch, and store them in a backpack, purse, etc. until the end of the school day.



Pouches will be unlocked as students leave for the day. Prior access to unlock cases will not be granted.

USE OF YONDR POUCH VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

If a student's phone is visible at all during the day (using device or device is not in a Yondr pouch)-

First Offense: Student will be asked to report to the office with a referral, surrender device to administrator.

First Offense Consequence: Student will be asked to report to the office with a referral, surrender device to administrator. Student will be asked to pouch/re-pouch phone and receive warning. Guidelines will be reviewed with the student. Student will be allowed to pick up phones at the end of the day.

Second Offense: Student will be asked to report to the office with a referral, surrender device to administrator.

Second Offense Consequence: Student will be asked to pouch/re-pouch phone. Parent /guardian MUST come pick up phone. Parent/guardian and student must sign an agreement regarding the guidelines and following consequences. **Student will be assigned to ISS for 3 days.**

Third Offense: Student will be asked to report to the office with a referral, surrender device to administrator.

Third Offense Consequence: Student will be asked to pouch/re-pouch phone. Parent /guardian MUST come pick up phone. Parent/guardian and student must review the agreement regarding the guidelines and following consequences. Student will be assigned to Alternative Learning Program for 5 Days.

Subsequent Offenses:
Pending Administrative Hearing

REFUSAL TO POUCH DEVICE

If a student refuses to pouch or surrender device to be pouched ...

1. Student will receive Disciplinary Referral.
2. Student will be assigned to Alternative Learning Program pending Administrative Hearing.
3. Parent/Guardian will be contacted to remove student from school premises for the day.

STUDENT DAMAGES YONDR POUCH

If a student damages a pouch ...

1. Disciplinary Referral
2. Assigned to Alternative Learning Program pending Administrative Hearing
3. Parent/Guardian will be contacted to remove student from school premises for the day.
4. Student MUST pay a \$30 replacement fee prior to returning to school.

Questions and Answers

How will I be able to get in touch with my child during the day?

During the school day, parents and guardians can call the main office to get in touch with their children.

Will my child be allowed to take the cell phone on academic and athletic events?

Yes, your child will be allowed to take his/her cell phone on academic and athletic events without being in the pouch.

Doesn't limiting cell phone access make students less safe?

Absolutely not! We would not be doing this if we felt student safety would be compromised. Cell phones and other electronic devices can actually create a distraction for students that compromise safety, both emergencies and day-to-day as it relates to bullying and violence.

What happens when a student loses or damages a pouch?

Students will be encouraged to keep track of their assigned pouches and to not damage them in any way (i.e. cut open, damage the pin, or cause obstruction the locking device). If students lose or damage pouches, students will be assigned to the Alternative Learning Program, and a replacement pouch will cost families \$30.

What happens when a student is caught using their phone or devices during school?

See consequences on the left side of this document. The district will use a progressive discipline approach, meaning consequences become more severe if students are cited for the same offense more than once.