# **ATDA Cell Phone and Wireless Communication Device Policy for Students 2025-2026**

## **I. Purpose**

This policy outlines the guidelines for the use of all wireless communication devices by students within Albuquerque Talent Development Academy to ensure a focused, safe, and high-quality learning environment free from unnecessary distractions, in compliance with Senate Bill 11, the "Anti-Distraction Policy in Schools."

## **II. Definitions**

A. **Wireless Communication Device (WCD)** means a portable electronic device capable of transmitting voice, text, or data, including, but not limited to: \* Cellular phone, smartphone, or smartwatch \* Tablet computer \* Laptop computer \* Gaming device

## **III. General Guidelines**

A. **Prohibition During Instructional Hours:** Students are **prohibited from using any Wireless Communication Device (WCD) during instructional hours.** This includes, but is not limited to, classrooms, labs, libraries, and during structured learning activities.

B. **Permissible Use During Non-Instructional Hours:** Students are permitted to use WCDs during **non-instructional hours**, such as during passing periods, lunch breaks, and before or after the regular school day, provided such use is in accordance with the school's code of conduct and does not disrupt the educational environment or violate the privacy of others.

C. **Teacher Authorization for Educational Purposes:** A teacher may **permit a student to use a WCD for specific educational purposes** during instructional hours. Such use must be directly related to the curriculum or a classroom activity and be under the direct supervision of the teacher.

## **IV. Exemptions for WCD Use During Instructional Hours**

The prohibition against student use of WCDs during instructional hours shall not apply in the following circumstances:

A. **Emergencies:** In the event of a genuine emergency, students may use a WCD to communicate with family or emergency services. Students should notify school staff immediately regarding the emergency.

B. **Medical Necessities:** If the use of a WCD is a documented medical necessity, as determined by a healthcare professional.

C. **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** As an identified accommodation in an **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)** or a **Section 504 Plan** for a student with a disability. This includes assistive technologies such as text-to-speech or speech-to-text functionalities.

D. **Communication with Parents/Guardians:** Parents/guardians needing to contact their child during instructional hours should do so by calling the school's main office. School staff will ensure the message is delivered promptly to the student.

## **V. Student Privacy and Confidentiality**

A. Students are expected to respect the privacy and confidentiality of others. The use of WCDs to photograph, video record, or audio record other individuals without their express permission and without a legitimate educational purpose is strictly prohibited. Unauthorized recording or distribution of images or voices of students or staff may result in disciplinary action and/or legal consequences.

B. The school reserves the right to review WCDs for content if there is reasonable suspicion of a violation of school policy, illegal activity, or a threat to school safety.

## **VI. Consequences for Policy Violations**

Violations of this Wireless Communication Device Policy will result in disciplinary action consistent with ATDA’s existing student code of conduct. Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

A. **First Offense:** \* Verbal warning and device confiscated until the end of the instructional period/school day, to be returned to the student.

B. **Second Offense:** \* Device confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian. \*

C. **Third and Subsequent Offenses:** \* Device confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian. Further disciplinary action, which may include in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or other measures as outlined in the student code of conduct.

D. **Refusal to Comply:** Refusal to surrender a WCD upon request by school staff will be considered insubordination and will result in more severe disciplinary action.

E. **Theft or Damage:** The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged WCDs brought to school. Students bring these devices at their own risk.

## **VII. Implementation and Communication**

A. This policy will be communicated to all school administrators, faculty, and staff.

B. This policy will be communicated to all students and their families via student handbooks, school website, parent newsletters, school-wide announcements, orientation meetings.

C. This policy will be published on the Albuquerque Talent Development Academy’s website by August 1, 2025.

## **VIII. Responsible Entity**

Albuquerque Talent Development Academy’s Board of Education will approve this policy at the monthly Governance Council Meeting held on July 15, 2025 in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.