

December 11, 2024

Dear Pittsylvania County Schools' Families:

Governor Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order 33 Establishing Cell Phone-Free Education to Promote the Health and Safety of Virginia's K-12 Students which requires school divisions to adopt policies and procedures in compliance with this Executive Order by January 1, 2025. In response to this Order, the School Board of Pittsylvania County approved a revision to School Board Policy JS-PC, Cell Phones/Electronic Devices, which is attached for your review.

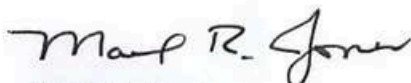
The Governor's Order and the revised School Board Policy JS-PC support studies that show students who use their phones during class learn less and achieve lower grades. According to these studies, substantial phone and social media use can have a cumulative, lasting and detrimental impact on adolescents' ability to focus and engage in their studies.

Because of the harmful nature of cell phones and other similar electronic devices, the new cell phone policy will continue to require cell phones and electronic devices to be turned off and stored away during the school day. Students will not be permitted to use their devices during the school day. At this time, students may use cell phones on school buses provided they do not create a disruption. Failure to comply with School Board Policy JS-PC will result in disciplinary consequences including confiscation of the cell phone or electronic device. The school division nor its staff will be responsible for damaged, lost or stolen devices.

We appreciate all that you have done to assist your children. For more information regarding Executive Order 33, please visit [doe.virginia.gov](https://www.doe.virginia.gov). You can also learn more about the effects of cell phones and social media on children by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1w287BCT4Mw>.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with your school's principal or you may contact me.

Respectfully,



Mark R. Jones  
Division Superintendent