

Pittsylvania County Schools Cell Phone Protocol - Effective January 1, 2025

<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>High</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the hours of school operation, students may not have cell phones and/or other personal electronic communication devices on their person. Hours of school operation are defined as the first bell to enter the building in the morning and the dismissal bell to end the school day. These devices include, but are not limited to, wearable devices such as smart watches, personal headphones, personal laptops, and other future personal electronic devices capable of connecting to a smartphone, the internet, a cellular or Wi-Fi connection, or directly to a similar device. Cell phones and/or other personal electronic communication devices must be powered off and stored away in bookbags upon entering the school for the entire instructional day. Parents and students must use school-based communication outlets (school telephone) during the hours of school operation, including emergencies. Students are allowed to use cell phones and/or other personal electronic communication devices on the school bus traveling to and from school on regular school days. This privilege is at the discretion of the building principal. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or personal electronic communication devices to take pictures/videos on school buses. Students are not permitted to play music/watch videos with sound unless the device is connected to a listening device (headphones, air pods, etc.). Unauthorized possession and/or use of a cell phone or other personal electronic device as defined above will result in disciplinary actions including confiscation up to revocation. In all cases, the cell phone or device will be confiscated. <p><u>Consequences:</u> 1st offense – Cell phone is confiscated until the end of the school day, and a parent will be notified. 2nd offense – Cell phone is confiscated until the parent/guardian reports to the school and conferences with the school administration regarding disciplinary action. 3rd offense – Cell phone privileges are revoked. Note: The severity/nature of the offense may result in a student not being allowed to bring a cell phone to school for a specified period up to and including the remainder of the school year. Failure to comply with a teacher/staff member's request to relinquish (hand over) a cell phone will automatically result in further disciplinary action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the hours of school operation, students may not have cell phones and/or other personal electronic communication devices on their person. Hours of school operation are defined as the first bell to enter the building in the morning and the dismissal bell to end the school day. These devices include, but are not limited to, wearable devices such as smart watches, personal headphones, personal laptops, and other future personal electronic devices capable of connecting to a smartphone, the internet, a cellular or Wi-Fi connection, or directly to a similar device. Cell phones and/or other personal electronic communication devices must be powered off and stored away in lockers for the entire instructional day. Parents and students must use school-based communication outlets (school telephone) during the hours of school operation, including emergencies. Students are allowed to use cell phones and/or other personal electronic communication devices on the school bus traveling to and from school on regular school days. This privilege is at the discretion of the building principal. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or personal electronic communication devices to take pictures/videos on school buses. Students are not permitted to play music/watch videos with sound unless the device is connected to a listening device (headphones, air pods, etc.). Unauthorized possession and/or use of a cell phone or other personal electronic device as defined above will result in disciplinary actions including confiscation up to revocation. In all cases, the cell phone or device will be confiscated. <p><u>Consequences:</u> 1st offense – Cell phone is confiscated until the end of the school day, and three (3) days of In-School Suspension (ISS). 2nd offense – Cell phone is confiscated until the parent/guardian picks it up and three (3) days of In-School Suspension (ISS). 3rd offense – Cell phone privileges are revoked and one (1) day of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS). Note: The severity/nature of the offense may result in a student not being allowed to bring a cell phone to school for a specified period up to and including the remainder of the school year. Failure to comply with a teacher/staff member's request to relinquish (hand over) a cell phone will automatically result in further disciplinary action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the hours of school operation, students may not have cell phones and/or other personal electronic communication devices on their person. Hours of school operation are defined as the first bell to enter the building in the morning and the dismissal bell to end the school day. These devices include, but are not limited to, wearable devices such as smart watches, personal headphones, personal laptops, and other future personal electronic devices capable of connecting to a smartphone, the internet, a cellular or Wi-Fi connection, or directly to a similar device. Cell phones and/or other personal electronic communication devices must be powered off and stored away in lockers, bookbags, or student vehicles for the entire instructional day. Parents and students must use school-based communication outlets (school telephone) during the hours of school operation, including emergencies. Students are allowed to use cell phones and/or other personal electronic communication devices on the school bus traveling to and from school on regular school days. This privilege is at the discretion of the building principal. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or personal electronic communication devices to take pictures/videos on school buses. Students are not permitted to play music/watch videos with sound unless the device is connected to a listening device (headphones, air pods, etc.). Unauthorized possession and/or use of a cell phone or other personal electronic device as defined above will result in disciplinary actions including confiscation up to revocation. In all cases, the cell phone or device will be confiscated. <p><u>Consequences*:</u> 1st offense – Cell phone and/or personal electronic communication device is confiscated until the end of the school day, and three (3) days of In-School Suspension (ISS). 2nd offense – Cell phone and/or personal electronic communication device is confiscated until the parent/guardian picks it up and one (1) day of Out-of-School (OSS). 3rd offense – Cell phone privileges are revoked and three (3) days of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS). Note: The severity/nature of the offense may result in a student not being allowed to bring a cell phone to school for a specified period up to and including the remainder of the school year. Failure to comply with a teacher/staff member's request to relinquish (hand over) a cell phone will automatically result in further disciplinary action. *For new protocol, disciplinary action will be reset at the beginning of second semester of the 2024-2025 school year only</p>

- If there is a medical necessity for the cell phone to remain with the student, documentation from a doctor must be presented to the principal and a medical plan must be in place.
- Pittsylvania County Schools is not responsible for any student cell phone or personal electronic device.

Updated 12/11/2024