



## COEUR D'ALENE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1400 N. NORTHWOOD CENTER CT.

COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814

(208) 664-8241

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### Changes to Personal Electronic Device (PED) Procedure

The Coeur d'Alene School District Board of Trustees recently adopted a set of changes to our procedure related to student use of Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) while in school. The changes are reflected in [Board Procedure 3265-P - Personal Electronic Devices](#).

#### Background

The district's PED policy and procedure aligns with Governor Brad Little's [Phone Free Learning Act](#), a statewide directive that requires all Idaho public school districts to implement policies limiting student access to cell phones during school time to create a more focused and effective learning environment. Our PED policy was developed to ensure compliance with this order while prioritizing student safety and educational outcomes. To support student achievement, this policy limits PED use during the school day.

We understand that students and families rely on personal electronic devices (cell phones, smartwatches) to communicate and that there are some concerns regarding the new PED use rules in school. Parents/guardians who need to contact their student during the school day may do so by calling the school's office. School staff will ensure messages are relayed to students and/or students are able to return calls to family.

#### What are the PED use requirements?

1. Students may bring their devices to school but must keep them turned off and stored away in a backpack or locker during class time.
2. Students may use their devices before and after school but not during lunch or passing periods in the hallways.
3. Teachers may allow devices for specific learning activities when a school-issued device isn't available.



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4. Devices may not be used to record or take photos of others without permission.
5. PEDs cannot be used for cheating, bullying, or accessing unfiltered internet connections.

### **Why make the changes?**

The fundamental reasons for managing PED use is to reduce distractions for students while they are in school, improve the learning environment, and encourage students to engage with each other more, away from screen time.

Studies show that PEDs can be a major distraction in school, reducing focus, lowering academic performance, and disrupting learning. Constant notifications and social media use take attention away from lessons and other interactions, making it harder for students to retain information and succeed in school.

### **Change is sometimes hard.**

We understand that this is a change, and adjustments to behavior can be challenging. However, the goal is to create the best possible learning experience for all students, both academically and socially.

Family, student, and staff feedback is important to us and we value the engagement. We will monitor the implementation of the procedure changes closely and adjust as necessary. We appreciate the continued support as we work together to help our students stay focused and engaged as they learn!



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### **PED Policy + Procedure Talking Points**

#### **The district's PED policy and procedure are designed to foster a better learning environment, not just in classrooms but throughout the school day.**

While it's true that PEDs can be distracting in class, research also shows that constant phone use—even outside of class—can make it harder for students to focus when they return to learning. Our policy and procedures help ensure students stay engaged throughout the day, leading to better academic success.

#### **Face-to-face socialization is important for student well-being.**

The district recognizes that socialization is a key part of school life. However, relying on phones during passing periods and lunch can actually limit meaningful interactions. Encouraging students to talk with one another face-to-face, rather than through screens, fosters stronger friendships, better communication skills, and a more connected school community.

#### **Phones are not the only way to bond and decompress.**

While some students use phones for socializing or playing games, these are not the only ways to unwind during the school day. Lunch and passing periods provide a great opportunity for students to take a mental break by engaging in real-world conversations, getting fresh air, or participating in school activities. Our PED policy and procedures are not about limiting enjoyment. They are about promoting healthier habits that benefit students long-term.

#### **The policy + procedure align with broader efforts to reduce student distractions.**

Governor Little has called on school districts to create policies that limit cell phone use because of their negative impact on student learning and focus. Our policy and procedures are part of this statewide effort to ensure our students are making the most of their education.

#### **Students still have access to their devices before and after school.**

The policy/procedure does not ban PEDs completely—students may use their devices before and after school. Additionally, if an emergency arises during the day, parents/guardians may always contact their student through the school office.



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### **The policy + procedures were created with student success in mind.**

Our goal is not to punish students but to create a balanced school environment where learning, socialization, and personal well-being are prioritized. Schools across the country have found that reducing PED use helps students stay more engaged, focused, and connected to their peers in positive ways.