

Bradley County Schools

Secondary Communication Device Plan 2025-2026

Purpose:

The presence of communication devices in schools has led to increased distractions, reduced focus on learning, and diminished face-to-face interactions. To create a positive, academically enriching environment, Bradley Central High School, Walker Valley High School, and the PIE Innovation Center are implementing No Communication Device guidelines during school hours. This aims to:

- Minimize disruptions during instructional time.
- Encourage meaningful social engagement among students.
- Improve overall student focus and participation in learning.
- Reduce behavioral issues linked to excessive phone use.

School administrators and teachers will define and direct the appropriate use of cell phones and other personal communication devices (such as cell phones, tablets, MP3 players, and earbuds) on school grounds. Neither Bradley County Schools nor its employees shall be responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of personal communication or electronic devices.

General Rules:

- Wireless devices (cell phones, tablets, MP3 players, earbuds, etc.) cannot be visible in a student's possession at any point during the school day (8:15 - 3:30).
- Student devices must be turned off, stored out of sight, or placed in a designated area as determined by the teacher (e.g., backpack, pocket chart, or boxes) during the entire school day.
- Wireless devices are not allowed in dressing rooms or testing areas at any time.

Exceptions:

- Students who have a documented medical need with administrative and nurse approval.
- Emergencies as determined by school staff.

Consequences for violating cellphone expectations:

- 1st - The teacher gives the phone/device to the administration; administration then calls the parent, and keeps the phone until the end of the day; Referral into Synergy
- 2nd - The teacher gives the phone/device to administration; the administration then calls the parent; the phone is held for seven (7) calendar days, and the parent must pick up the phone; Referral in Synergy. **A parent may pay a \$50 fine to retrieve the phone early.*
- 3rd - The phone/device is confiscated for fifteen (15) calendar days; Referral in Synergy. **Parent(s) may pay a \$100 fine to retrieve the phone early. *The student loses the privilege to bring any wireless device on school property.*
- If a student refuses to turn in the phone/device, an additional referral will be submitted for Defiance/Disrespect, which will follow disciplinary steps.

Note: In the event of an emergency, parents will be notified through school-wide communication. Bradley County Schools will not be responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of cell phones or other communication and electronic devices.