



Wireless Communication Device Policy Update FAQ

The Transylvania County Board of Education recently provided a directive to the Superintendent and administration that while the Board policy regarding cell phone use is being revised based on recent changes in law, all TCS schools will move forward in the 2025-26 school year with a practice of not allowing students to have cellphones turned on from the time the school day begins to the time the school day ends.

To ensure consistency throughout the school year and comply with recent changes in law and the Board's directive, all students will be prohibited from having cell phone devices turned on from the beginning to the end of the school day while Board Policy 4318 – Use of Wireless Communication Devices is under review for necessary revisions. This includes during non-instructional times.

Transylvania County Board of Education is working on revising Policy 4318, which regulates student use of cell phones and other wireless communication devices that will be in accordance with NC Session Law 2025-38 House Bill 959. The Board recognizes the significant and growing body of research linking excessive screen time and cell phone use to increased adolescent anxiety, depression, social isolation, and academic distraction. In response, the Board is revising this policy to protect student well-being, promote face-to-face engagement, and ensure classrooms are free from unnecessary technological distractions.

Please review the attached **Q&A: Use of Wireless Communication and Other Electronic Devices**, and share the information with your student.

Please contact your child's school if you have questions or need more information.

Q&A: Use of Wireless Communication and Other Electronic Devices

- **What are considered Wireless Communication Devices?**

Wireless communication and other electronic devices include, but are not limited to: cell phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios, electronic games, laser pointers, cameras, video cameras, tablets, wireless and corded earbuds/headphones, and similar devices. Smartwatches are considered wireless communication devices when used for messaging or accessing the internet.

- **Can students bring wireless devices to school?**

Yes. Students may bring wireless devices to school as long as they follow the rules at their school. Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their wireless devices – the district is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone or other wireless device.

- **Can high school students use cell phones at school?**

No, from the first bell to begin school to the last bell for dismissal, cell phones and other electronic devices should remain turned off and put away.

- **What about elementary and middle school students?**

Elementary and middle school students are not allowed to use cell phones and other electronic devices from the time of arrival on campus to the last bell for dismissal.

- **Are there exceptions to the restrictions on the use of wireless devices by students?**

Yes. Administrators may allow students in elementary, middle, and high schools to use wireless devices for personal purposes when a reasonable need arises, such as a medical need.

- **Can students use wireless devices on school buses?**

Yes. However, the bus driver, or administration, may ask students to put away devices if they feel the device interferes with the safe operation of their bus.

- **Will wireless devices continue to be used as an instructional tool in the classroom?**

No, wireless devices are not allowed to be accessed during the instructional day.

- **Can students have their phones during after-school activities?**

Yes, with the approval from the coach/sponsor.