

**JCDAF-R Use of Personal Electronic Devices by Students**

7/1/26

**RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:**

The Cobb County School District (District) seeks promote a positive learning environment free from electronic distractions. In accordance with the "Distraction Free Education Act" (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324.8), this rule establishes the foundation for implementation of state law.

**RULE:****A. USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

Students in grades K-8 are not permitted to access personal electronic devices while on school grounds during school hours, including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, earbuds, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission during school hours. Any student found in violation of this policy and/or district rules/procedures during the school day shall be subject to progressive discipline consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct (Administrative Rule JCDA-R).

**B. STORAGE:**

All personal electronic devices must be turned off prior to entering the school building. Students should store their devices in their personal backpacks, purses, or school locker during the school day. Neither the Cobb County School District (District), individual schools, nor District employees shall assume any responsibility or liability for the theft, loss, or damage to a personal communication device.

**C. FIELD TRIPS:**

Student may access personal electronic devices for non-instructional purposes during off-campus activities that occur during the school day (i.e., field trips) in accordance with restrictions in District rules (see Administrative Rules IFBG-R and JCDA-R).

**D. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION:**

1. All emergency communication will be filtered through the school emergency communication management system and coordinated by school personnel.
2. Parents/guardians who need to communicate with their student during the school day should contact their student's school directly.

**E. LIMITATIONS:**

A student whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or medical plan explicitly mandates the use of a personal electronic device shall be permitted access to the device as necessary to fulfill the requirements of the respective plan.

Revision Timeline\*:

Adopted: 12/11/25 (Effective 7/1/26)

*\*Administrative Rules and Board Policies are reviewed on a regular basis. Dates indicate when revisions were made, not the dates of document review.*

Division: Chief of Staff

Legal Reference:

O.C.G.A. 20-2-324.8      Distraction-Free Education Act