

## **DRAFT Personal Digital Device Policy (Section 5 Health and Safety)**

The Revelstoke Board of Education believes that equitable and safe access to technology is an integral part of our students' education. While acknowledging the important role that technology can play in enhancing learning opportunities, the Revelstoke Board of Education also must make all efforts to promote optimal learning environments, while at the same time ensuring the physical, mental and emotional safety of our students. Restricting the use of students' personal digital devices in schools ensures that our schools are environments that support cognitive development, foster healthy social interactions and promote self-regulation.

Personal digital devices will not be used by students on school property between school commencement and end-of-day bells. Therefore, student personal digital devices will not be used in any school space: hallways, bathrooms, lockers, classrooms, indoor and outdoor common areas etc, at any time between the hours of: 8:30am-2:30pm for elementary school and 8:45am-3:10pm for highschool. If personal digital devices are brought onto school property, the expectation is that students will keep their personal digital devices turned off or on airplane mode and stored in their lockers and out of sight during school hours.

### **Exceptions:**

- Exceptions will be made for students with documented medical conditions that require the use of a personal digital device.
- Exceptions will be made for students with relevant documentation or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that outlines the necessity of device use for the student's health and wellbeing, or accessibility. These accommodations will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Students with approved accommodations are required to adhere to specific guidelines that ensure appropriate use of their devices during school hours.
- Students who wish to take notes on a personal laptop will be allowed to do so provided that the device is used solely for note taking only, all social media, messaging and web surfing functions must be turned off. If this condition of use is not followed, laptop note taking privileges will be withdrawn.

## **Guidelines:**

Each school will develop guidelines that define the steps that will be taken to enforce compliance with this policy. Those steps will be clearly communicated to students, staff and the community.

Schools are expected to:

- Establish a tiered approach for addressing non-compliance, such as verbal warnings, parent/guardian notification, and escalating consequences for repeated violations.
- Provide guidelines for staff on how to consistently enforce the policy and handle exceptions (e.g., educational use, medical needs).
- Regularly communicate the enforcement plan to students, staff, and the broader school community through school meetings, newsletters, and other appropriate channels.
- Review and update the enforcement procedures annually to ensure alignment with evolving technology and student needs.

School hours should be dedicated to learning, personal growth, and fostering connections among students, peers, and adults in our school community. Recognizing the negative impact that misuse or overuse of personal digital devices can have on both education and mental health, the Revelstoke Board of Education is committed to creating a learning environment that offers a break from the pressures and distractions associated with constant access to these devices.

## **Glossary**

**Personal Digital Device-** includes but is not limited to cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, portable gaming devices and tablets/IPads.