

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 has an obligation to promote optimal learning environments. Restricting the use of students' personal digital devices in schools helps ensure that our schools are environments that support cognitive development, foster healthy social interactions and promote self-regulation while at the same time helping to safeguard the physical, mental and emotional safety of our students.

Personal digital devices will not be used by students on school property between school commencement and end-of-day. Student personal digital devices will not be used in any school space: hallways, bathrooms, lockers, classrooms, indoor and outdoor common areas etc, during the school day, nor during school-sponsored trips and activities. If personal digital devices are brought onto school property, students will keep their personal digital devices turned off or on airplane mode and stored in their lockers and out of sight.

Exceptions:

- Exceptions will be made for students with documented medical conditions that require the use of a personal digital device.
- Students with a documented educational need that outlines the necessity of device use for the student's health and wellbeing, or accessibility may also be given an exception. These accommodations will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by the School Based Teams.
- Students with approved accommodations are required to adhere to specific guidelines that ensure appropriate use of their devices during school hours.
- This policy applies to school- sponsored trips and activities. A school may make exceptions for specific out of town trips.

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 hold the policy and handle exceptions (e.g., educational use, medical needs).
- Regularly communicate the expectations and consequences to students, staff, and the broader school community through school signage/visuals, assemblies and meetings, newsletters, and other appropriate channels.
- Review and update policy application 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. 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.

School Day- Regular hours 8:30am-2:30pm Elementary 8:45am-3:10pm High School and includes out of time table courses and extracurricular activities.

Feedback Sheet

1.What are your thoughts on the proposed personal digital device policy?

2.What aspects of the policy do you think will be the most beneficial or effective?

3.Are there any areas of the policy that you think need improvement or further clarification?

4. Are there any additional suggestions or ideas you'd like us to consider as we finalize this policy?