



School District 19
(Revelstoke)

Revelstoke Board of Education

Policy Manual

5.15 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 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.

Guidelines:

Elementary Schools: Restrictions on Personal Digital Devices

1. For the elementary schools (district-wise), 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, 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 off their body and out of sight.

High School: Restrictions on Personal Digital Devices

2. For the high school, personal digital devices will not be used by students on school property during instructional time, including off-timetable courses. During instructional time, including 10-minute breaks between blocks, personal digital devices will not be used in any school spaces: including hallways, bathrooms, lockers, classrooms, indoor and outdoor common areas, etc. The Board may consider a bell-to-bell restriction in the future.
 - At this time, students in grades 8-12 may only use their devices in designated areas during these non-instructional times:
 - Before school starts at 8:45 am
 - Between 11:35 am – 12:25 pm
 - After school ends at 3:10 pm

- The high school administration will designate personal device free area(s) to give students during lunch time, a place to be that is free from personal digital device usage.
- Use of personal digital devices during school-sponsored events or extracurriculars will be at the discretion of the supervising teacher or designate.

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 a device for 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 or the individual school administrators.
- 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 embrace 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. In recognizing the negative impact that misuse or overuse of personal digital devices can have on both education and mental health of

students, 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. It is the shared responsibility of district staff, caregivers and the community as a whole to promote awareness of the cognitive, social and mental health impacts of excessive device use.

Glossary:

Personal Digital Device – includes but is not limited to cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, portable gaming devices, laptops/desktop computers and tablets/iPads.

School Day – Regular hours 8:30 am – 2:20 pm (Elementary), 8:45 am – 3:10 pm (High School)