

## **USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

### **Background**

Prairie South Schools is committed to the learning and well-being of our students and recognizes and values a focused and engaging learning environment. Current educational research suggests that students who continually access their personal electronic devices during the school day are distracted and lack focus on their learning. In order to maintain an effective teaching and learning environment, the use of personal electronic devices will be limited during instructional time.

Staff are expected to model the best practices outlined in [AP 141 Employee Cell/Smartphone Access and Usage](#).

### **Definitions**

**Personal Electronic Devices** – For the purpose of this procedure, the term personal electronic devices shall imply any personal technology such as, but not limited to, smartphones, wearables, tablets, and portable electronic gaming systems.

**Instructional Time** – Instructional time is any time in which pupils of a school are in attendance and under teacher supervision for the purpose of receiving instruction in an educational program, including work-experience programs, student-led conferences, examinations, and other learning activities provided by the board of education.

### **Procedures**

1. Personal electronic devices shall be stored out of sight and on silent mode or off during instructional time. Wearable technology may be worn but must be configured to prevent distractions from alerts and/or communication.
2. Teachers of students in Grades 9 to 12 who identify a specific instructional purpose for students to use personal electronic devices in their classroom may request permission from the principal. The request will be made in accordance with the school's individualized instructional communication plan.
3. To incorporate personal electronic device use in the classroom, on field trips, and during any other non-traditional learning activities, teachers shall clearly set defined expectations of what constitutes appropriate use and follow-up processes for misuse.
4. Exemptions approved by the school superintendent may be made when the device is required for specific medical conditions or for documented accommodations related to additional needs. This required documentation shall align with the school division's procedures related to medical or educational accommodations.

5. Use of personal electronic devices is prohibited in areas where there is an increased expectation of privacy (e.g., washrooms, changing rooms, etc.).
6. School administration maintains the right to augment this procedure to include non-instructional time (e.g. lunch and recess).
7. Consequences for inappropriate use remain at the discretion of the school and shall align with [AP 350 Student Conduct](#).
8. While at school, personal electronic devices remain the responsibility of the owner.
9. We ask that parents/caregivers are aware of the expectations set out regarding the use of personal electronic devices.

Reference: The Education Act, 1995.  
The Education Regulations, 2019.  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Education. Digital Citizenship in Saskatchewan Schools, 2015.  
Ribble, Mike. Digital Citizenship in Schools. International Society For Tech, 2011.  
Haidt, Jonathan. The Anxious Generation – How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness, 2024.  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Education. Personal Electronic Devices-Responsible Use in Schools, 2024  
Centre for Trauma Informed Practices. The Use of Personal Mobile Devices in Canadian Schools, 2024.

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