



Entiat School District

Cell Phone Use Policy



WHY THE NEW POLICY?

- Our goal in the Entiat School District is the learning and improved health/well-being of every student that walks through our doors.
- Cell phones and other personal devices are a distraction to that learning and the research is very clear that social media use is harming our students.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

- Cell Phones will not be allowed in classrooms, hallways, commons, gyms, restrooms, pockets, notebooks during the school day (8:15am-3:00pm).
- Students *may* use their cell phones before school and after school.
- Any cell phones brought to school must be *kept in a locker (MS/HS)*.
- Elementary students *will* keep their device shut off and in their backpack.
- Students found with a phone during the school day will have their phone confiscated and be subject to the consequences listed below.

WHAT DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED?

- There are other electronic devices besides cell phones that fall under this policy. They include:
 - Smart Watches
 - Ear Buds
 - iPads not issued by the school
 - Tablets
 - Any other personal device that allows access to social media.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Will banning cell phones in the classroom affect safety?

- It will make us safer for several reasons. According to security expert Ken Trump (via NPR) student cell phones are unsafe during an active shooter scenario:
 - ❖ Using phones can distract people from the actions they need to be taking in the moment, such as running, hiding and listening to directions from first responders.
 - ❖ The sound of the phone, whether ringing or on vibrate, could alert an assailant to a hiding place.
 - ❖ The shooter could be monitoring the event themselves on social media and find more victims or elude capture that way.
 - ❖ Victims and worried family members trying to get through can jam communications, interfering with first responders.

How will I be able to contact my student during the school day?

- Please call our school office and the secretaries will relay a message to your student.

Will teachers be allowed to use their phones during class time?

- Yes, for work-related purposes (E3 security app, communication with maintenance, etc.) This will be very minimal.
- We expect staff to model responsible use of their cell phones during school.

Does this mean that teachers will no longer be able to ask a student to use their cell phone as an academic tool?

- Yes.
- Students will have their school-issued Chromebook to use.

What if my student needs to listen to music for their well-being or while they do an assignment?

- If your student has a diagnosis that determines they are aided by listening to music during an assignment, they may be allowed (with teacher permission) to use corded headphones with their Chromebooks.

What if my student's phone gets stolen from their locker?

- The MS/HS lockers all have locks. It is the student's responsibility to keep their device in their locked locker.
- The school district is not responsible if a phone is lost or stolen.
- A student and their family take on all liability if they choose to bring a phone or other personal device to school.

What if my family refuses to abide by this policy?

- Parents do not have the right to ignore a school policy.
- If a family chooses to not abide by school policy, onsite learning is no longer a possibility for your student.
- We will provide remote (likely online) education for your student through our APEX Program.

What are the consequences if my student brings their phone into a classroom?

➤ First Offense:

- ❖ The student's phone or electronic device will be confiscated, taken to the office, and returned at the end of the school day.
- ❖ The parents or guardians will be notified by the teacher.
- ❖ The teacher will fill out a behavior referral form, indicating defiance of district policy, that will be given to the office along with the phone or electronic device.
- ❖ The student will receive a lunch detention for the violation.

➤ Second Offense:

- ❖ The student's phone or electronic device will be confiscated, taken to the office, and returned only to a parent or guardian.

- ❖ The parents or guardians will be notified by the teacher indicating a second offense has occurred.
- ❖ The teacher will fill out a behavior referral form that will be given to the office for defiance; the second offense will be converted to Failure to Cooperate.
- ❖ The student will receive an after-school detention and a behavior contract will be drafted at a parent meeting.

➤ **Third Offense:**

- ❖ The student's phone or electronic device will be confiscated, taken to the office and returned only to a parent or guardian.
- ❖ The parents or guardians will be notified by the office.
- ❖ The teacher will fill out a behavior referral form that will be given to the office for defiance; the third offense will be converted to a level 3 – Other III violation.
- ❖ The student will receive In-School Suspension (ISS) up to 3 days.
- ❖ The student will be required to check-in/check-out their phones and other electronic devices at the office daily before and after school. This will remain in effect until the end of the school year or until a predetermined time as set by the administration.
- ❖ If participating in a sport or extracurricular activity, the student may practice, but will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular event on any day they are in ISS.

➤ **Fourth Offense**

- ❖ The student's phone or electronic device will be confiscated, taken to the office and returned only to a parent or guardian.
- ❖ The parents or guardians will be notified by the office.
- ❖ The teacher will fill out a behavior referral form that will be given to the office for defiance; the fourth offense will be converted to a level 4 – Other IV violation.
- ❖ The student will transition to an online alternative learning program with the school district.

- ❖ The student will be ineligible to compete in extracurricular activities as per the Athletic/Activities Code.

How will this policy enhance efforts to improve mental health, cyber bullying, etc.?

- The evidence of the harmful effects of social media on our young people is undisputable.
- As of January 2020, 44 percent of all internet users in the U.S. said they have experienced online harassment.
- The most prevalent type of online harassment was offensive name-calling, making up 37 percent of all instances. (security.org)
- The most effective way to **prevent cyberbullying**, teens say, is to block the bully, according to the National Crime Prevention Council. (security.org)
- Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy (May 2023):
 - ❖ Social media use by young people is nearly universal, with up to 95% of young people ages 13-17 reporting using a social media platform and more than 1/3 saying they use social media “almost constantly.”
 - ❖ One-third or more of girls aged 11-15 say they feel “addicted” to certain social media platforms and over half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media.
- Studies have also shown a relationship between social media use and poor sleep quality, reduced sleep duration, sleep difficulties, and depression among youth.

