
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ): WCPS Policy Regarding Student Use of Personally-Owned, Electronic Devices

- 1. *Why is a policy needed for student use of personally owned devices?***
Students now have WCPS-owned tablets and computers for instructional use, so personally owned devices are not needed during instructional time. Also, in the past, personal devices have been used in inappropriate ways and/or have disrupted the instructional environment.
- 2. *What are the devices the policy covers?***
Cell phones, smart phones, laptop computers, tablets, smart watches, beepers, two-way radios, electronic readers, earbuds, headphones and language translators that are not owned by WCPS.
- 3. *When does the policy apply?***
Time of arrival on school property until departure from school property. The policy applies when a student is on a school bus (See Question 5).
- 4. *What are the restrictions on student use of personal electronic devices in school?***
Any personal device(s) listed above must be kept out of sight and turned off during instructional time.
- 5. *What other restrictions apply?***
A student may not, at any time in class, cafeteria, hallways and elsewhere on school property, or on a school bus, use a personal device to take photographs or record audio/video.
- 6. *May students use personal electronic devices in the cafeteria and between classes?***
Use of a personal device may be granted by a principal or supervising adult for an emergency or during non-instructional time, such as lunch or between classes.
- 7. *May students use personal electronic devices on a school bus?***
Use of a personal device is permitted on a school bus, so long as use of the device does not disrupt bus operations and is in compliance with the policy of the Board of Education.
- 8. *What if a device is lost or damaged?***
Any personal device is the responsibility of the student. WCPS and the Board of Education are not responsible for lost, loaned, damaged or stolen devices. WCPS will NOT provide technical support, software or accessories for any personally owned device.
- 9. *May a supervising adult take a student's personal device?***
A school administrator may take temporary possession of a personal device if a student's use or attempted use of a device is in violation of the policy, disrupts the learning environment, creates safety concerns or violates the confidentiality or privacy of others.
- 10. *What are the discipline consequences if a student is in violation of the policy?***
A student in violation of the policy may face disciplinary measures in accordance with WCPS student discipline guidelines. Possible discipline includes, but is not limited to verbal warning, parent notification, referral, removal of privileges, detention and in-school suspension.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: *Final decisions regarding student use of personal electronic devices will be made by each school principal.*