

Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media

Purpose

In accordance with Oregon Executive Order 25-09, Central Linn School District (CLSD) promotes a focused, safe, and distraction-free learning environment. The purpose of this policy is to clarify when and how students may possess and use personal electronic devices (PEDs), including cell phones, and to outline expectations regarding social media, disciplinary consequences, and emergency communication.

Definitions

- **Personal Electronic Device (PED):** Any portable, electrically powered device capable of calling, texting, or accessing the internet independently of the district network. This includes, but is not limited to, smartphones, flip phones, smartwatches, tablets, and wireless earbuds.
- **Instructional Day:** The regular instructional hours of the school day, including passing periods, recess, and breaks.
- **Social Media:** Online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), Snapchat, and YouTube, or any other site or app used for networking, sharing, or posting content.

Use and Storage of Personal Electronic Devices

- PEDs must be powered off and stored in the student's locker or backpack during the instructional day.
- Devices may not be used during class, passing time, or lunch breaks unless authorized by a school administrator.
- PEDs may not be accessed in restrooms or locker rooms at any time.
- Students are expected to respect the privacy of others and may not take, share, or post unauthorized images or videos of other students or staff.

Social Media Use

- Students are not permitted to access social media platforms using personal or district devices while on school grounds or at district-sponsored events unless authorized by a school administrator for educational purposes.

- Students may not post content that includes images or videos of others without permission or that violates district policy, including content that is harassing, defamatory, obscene, or illegal.
- The district is not liable for personal content posted by students on social media platforms.

Progressive Consequences for Violations

Students in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. Discipline for mere possession or use of a personal electronic device may not include loss of instructional time for the student (suspension or expulsion). However, if the actions taken by a student violate another conduct policy, the student may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.¹

Violations of the PED policy will follow these progressive steps:

1. First instance of Noncompliance: staff will give the student a verbal reminder of the policy and expectations to reinforce appropriate use of personal electronic devices;
2. Second Instance of Noncompliance: Referral to administration. The device will be temporarily held until the parent or guardian can pick it up.
3. Third Instance of Noncompliance: Referral to administration. The device will again be temporarily held, and parents or guardians will be informed. A meeting with school administration and family will be arranged to review the policy and make a plan for improved compliance including keeping the phone/device locked up in the office.
4. Beyond Third Instance of Noncompliance: If non-compliance continues, schools will determine additional appropriate consequences, always prioritizing keeping students in class and engaged in learning.

Discipline for Misuse

Students are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, for using a PED in any of the following ways:

- Academically dishonest acts (e.g., cheating, unauthorized test aids).
- Illegal activity, including sexting, harassment, or unauthorized recording.
- Violation of another's privacy, including unauthorized images or videos.
- Disruption of school activities, including audio/video distractions.

Illegal or dangerous use of a PED will be referred to law enforcement. Confiscated devices may be returned only to a parent or guardian.

Emergency Communication

In the event of an emergency:

- Parents/guardians should contact the school office. School staff will coordinate necessary communication with students.
- Students will have access to school phones to reach family if needed.
- During a lockdown or evacuation, all devices must remain off to prevent interference with emergency operations and to reduce safety risks.
- The district will communicate with families via email, phone, and/or Parent Square as appropriate.

Exceptions to Policy

Use of PEDs may be permitted during the school day under the following conditions:

- Medical needs as directed by a licensed provider (e.g., diabetes management).
- Accommodations outlined in an IEP or 504 Plan.
- Written administrative exemption for unique educational or family circumstances.

All exceptions must be documented using the JFCEB-AR Form and approved by school administration.

Student and Family Communication

- This policy will be communicated annually via handbooks, orientation events, and family communications.
- Visual and multilingual resources will be provided to ensure accessibility.
- Staff will receive training to support consistent, equitable enforcement.

Liability and Responsibility

The district is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen personal electronic devices. Students are expected to handle any school-provided storage systems with care.

¹ For example, a student could be disciplined with lost instructional time for using a personal electronic device to bully another student. Discipline will be in accordance with Board policies.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 336.840](#)

Oregon Executive Orders 25-09 (2025)