

# Cell Phone/Electronic Communication Device (ECD) Policy-CHS 2024-25

**\*\* For this policy, "Cell Phone" refers to any Electronic Communication Device or ECD, including smart watches and/or any device that is powered by batteries or electricity that is capable of receiving/transmitting communication from or to another ECD or person. An ECD includes, but is not limited to a cellular device \*\***

Due to the significant disruption to the educational experience that ECDs cause, we are implementing a new policy. Ohio passed HB 250 requires that all districts place an emphasis on limiting ECD use and reducing cell phone-related distractions in classrooms. It is the hope that with these changes we will see an increase in student engagement in class and less disruptions during the day caused by social media, texting and other forms of digital media.

The following rules will be put in place:

1. ECDs will be placed in a central location during class time and may not be accessed by students except in the case that the TEACHER allows the ECD to be used for educational purposes. (if there is a medical reason to use an ECD, the school must be given notice by the parent/guardian).
2. No earbuds, air pods or headphones will be allowed in class or hallways for ANY reason except in the case that the TEACHER requests the students use them. These can be confiscated in the same way that a cell phone can.
3. The use of ECDs should be restricted to educational purposes only and must comply with state and federal laws, as well as the Student Code of Conduct.
4. ECDs can only be accessed before school, after school, during lunch, or between classes.
5. Phone calls, taking pictures, accessing social media and recording videos/images/audio are **prohibited** at all times during the school day.
6. Students are **prohibited** using ECDs to facilitate academic dishonesty through recording and/or transmitting test materials or information.
7. ECDs are **prohibited** to be used to record images, video, or audio at any time or place on District property where privacy exists (locker rooms, bathrooms, shower facilities, or any other place where persons may be found in a state of undress).

Other things to know in regard to ECDs:

1. If a teacher requests that a student turns over their ECD, the student must comply. If a student refuses to comply, they will be sent to the office for disciplinary action.
2. Your ECD will not be searched by school officials and can be powered off when turned into the office.
3. Should any offense involve illegal activity, the matter will be referred to the police and the ECD will not be released until all discipline has been served.
4. If it is discovered through an indirect investigation that a student did not comply with the ECD policy, the student may be disciplined accordingly.

5. Possession of a ECD is a privilege, which may be forfeited by a student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or who misuses this privilege.
6. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, which could include detention, In School Study, Saturday School, or confiscation of the ECD.
7. The ECD is the responsibility of the student. The Board is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to ECD brought onto school property.
8. Parents who need to get in touch with their child during the day should call the school. Students are permitted to use the office phone to contact parents during the day.

Violations of the ECD policy will be dealt with in the following way:

1st Offense- ECD goes to the office for the remainder of the day. The parent/guardian called and a parent/guardian must pick up the device

2nd Offense- ECD goes to the office, detention is given and a parent/guardian must pick up the device.

3rd Offense- ECD goes to the office, In School Study is given and a parent/guardian must pick up the device..

Additional Offenses- ECD goes to the office, In School Detention/ OSS or Friday School is given a permanent exclusion of carrying an ECD at school.

**Offenses start over at the semester.**

Area/Times of Use for ECDs

<b>Area/ Time of Use</b>	<b>Use permitted?</b>
Classrooms	NO
Hallways/ class change	YES
Restrooms/Locker Rooms	NO
Lunch	YES
District Sponsored Extra Curricular	Staff Discretion
School Bus or other Transport	Staff Discretion
LRC/ Mustang Mugs Cafe	YES
Study Hall	Staff Discretion