

PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES AND SOCIAL MEDIA IN SCHOOLS

Background

The Livingstone Range School Division (LRSD) Board of Trustees recognizes there is an appropriate educational purpose for the use of technology in the classroom provided it is used to achieve the learner outcomes in the Alberta programs of study and allows students to participate in learner activities chosen by the teacher. The Board recognizes that limiting personal mobile devices in schools helps to maximize learning and supports educational outcomes for children, supports student mental health, reduces opportunities for cyberbullying and helps mitigate negative impacts of excessive exposure to social media among children and youth. Digital citizenship is key to helping LRSD students learn to use available technology responsibly to enable them to reach their full potential as learners.

Definitions

Digital citizenship: the knowledge, skills and attitudes in Division schools needed to demonstrate safe, responsible and respectful behaviour when using technology or participating in digital environments.

Instructional time: includes time scheduled for the purposes of instruction, examinations/testing, and other student activities where direct student-teacher interaction and supervision are maintained.

Personal mobile device: a personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet, such as a cellphone, tablet, laptop, or smartwatch.

Guidelines

Schools have the right and authority to temporarily confiscate, restrict and/or prohibit personal mobile device usage while individuals are on school property and/or in attendance at school sponsored activities.

1. Division employees shall

- 1.1. serve as role models and must only use personal mobile devices as outlined in Board policy and administrative procedures; and
- 1.2. understand and promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe working and learning environment.

2. Division schools shall

- 2.1. ensure [Administrative Procedure 145: Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools](#) is communicated to all staff, parents and students at the beginning of each school year and ensure its adherence by developing a Personal Mobile Device plan which identifies;
 - 2.2. how personal mobile devices will be stored at the school;
 - 2.3. which social media platforms will be restricted from school networks and devices;
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- 2.4. the roles and responsibilities of students, parents, staff and school administrators;
- 2.5. a progression of consequences for non-compliance including a requirement to notify parents;
- 2.6. identifies how parents/guardians will be notified of infractions involving their child;

3. Students (grades K-9)

- 3.1. shall not be in possession of a personal mobile device during the school day and must store personal mobile devices in a locker where available or according to the school plan where not available unless limited use is required for:
 - 3.1.1. a diagnosed health or medical reason(s) where a physician has confirmed the need for use in the school environment; or
 - 3.1.2. an individualized educational support as approved by the Administration/School Learning Support Team in consultation with the legal guardian and where appropriate, the student
- 3.2. when not required, personal mobile devices used for a diagnosed health or medical reasons or an identified inclusive educational need shall be stored according to the school plan.

4. Students (grades 10-12)

- 4.1. shall not be in possession of a personal mobile device during class time and shall store a personal mobile device in the locker unless limited use is required for:
 - 4.1.1. a diagnosed health or medical reason(s) where a physician has confirmed the need for use in the school environment; or
 - 4.1.2. an individualized educational support as approved by the Administration/School Learning Support Team in consultation with the legal guardian and where appropriate, the student
- 4.2. when not required, personal mobile devices used for a diagnosed health or medical reasons or an identified inclusive educational need shall be stored according to the school plan.
- 4.3. may access a personal mobile device for a specific educational task or purpose when given permission by the teacher.

August 2024 (first reading)

References

[Policy 21: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environments](#)

Alberta Education Guide to Education

Ministerial Order #014/2024 Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools
