



Pittsburg Unified School District

Every Scholar, Every Day. They Deserve Nothing Less Than Our Best.

NEW MOBILE DEVICE - BOARD POLICY EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

PUSD Mobile Communication Device Policy - Board Policy 5131.8 Mobile Communication Devices

The Pittsburg Unified School District adopted Board Policy Mobile Communication Devices to establish consistent expectations for student use of personal mobile communication devices across all Pittsburg Schools.

The policy aligns with **California Law (AB 3216)** and establishes a consistent districtwide standard that supports focused, safe, and engaging learning environments. For most students, the adopted policy formalizes practices that were already in place across Pittsburg schools while providing expectations across all district schools.



What is a Mobile Communication Device?

A mobile communication device includes but is not limited to the following:

- ❖ Cell phones
- ❖ Smartwatches
- ❖ AirPods and Earbuds
- ❖ Headphones
- ❖ Smartglasses (i.e. Ray-Ban Meta AI glasses)
- ❖ Similar personal electronic devices

Policy by Grade Level



TK - 5th (Elementary Schools)

Students in grades TK - 5th may not use mobile communication devices while at school or under the supervision and control of a District employee.

All devices must:

- Be turned off **or** silenced
- Be stored out of sight
- Remain stored for the entire school day



6th - 8th (Junior High Schools)

Students may use mobile communication devices during designated non-instructional times, including but not limited to:

- ★ Lunch
- ★ Passing periods



9th - 12th (High Schools)

Students may use mobile communication devices during designated non-instructional times, including but not limited to:

- ★ Brunch
- ★ Lunch
- ★ Passing periods

Expectations for All Students

The following expectations apply at all Pittsburg Unified Schools:

- Mobile communication devices are prohibited in restrooms, locker rooms, dressing areas, and any location where **privacy** is expected.
- Students needing to contact a parent or guardian during the school day should use the school's designated office phone.
- Each school will communicate site-specific enforcement procedures consistent with District policy.
- Repeated violations may result in disciplinary consequences in accordance with District policy.

Legal Exceptions

California law provides specific exceptions that allow students to use or possess a mobile communication device under certain circumstances, including:

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger
2. When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator
3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being
4. When the possession or use is required by the student's individualized education program

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did Pittsburg Unified adopt this policy?

The policy aligns with a new state law (Assembly Bill 3216), creates a consistent policy across all of our school campuses, and most importantly, supports student learning, mental health, and peer connection by reducing distractions and promoting responsible use of technology.

When will this new policy be implemented?

The policy will be enforced starting August 5, 2026, the first day of the 2026-27 school year.

Will this change what students currently experience?

For most students, very little will change. The adopted Board Policy largely formalizes practices that were already in place across Pittsburg Unified schools while establishing one consistent expectation across all District schools.

Will my child have access to emergency communication?

In emergencies, or safety concerns, students will be allowed to use their phones.

What if I need to contact my child during the school day?

If you need to reach your child during school hours, **please** contact the school's main office. Staff can relay urgent messages or assist in connecting you with your child as needed. This helps maintain a phone-free learning environment while ensuring communication needs are met.

What if a student violates the policy?

Each school will implement site procedures consistent with District policy. Students who repeatedly violate the policy may be subject to progressive disciplinary consequences in accordance with District policies and school rules.

Screen Time and Brain Development

Article: What Does Too Much Screen Time Do to Children's Brains?

To read, click [here](#).

Discussion Questions:

- Have we noticed emotional or behavioral changes tied to screen time?
- What are some screen-free activities that help us connect as a family?



Responsible Phone Use Article: Smartphones and Children: Are These Hazardous to Their Health?

Read the article [Here](#)

Discussion Questions:

- What does responsible phone use look like at home, at school, and with friends?
- Are there boundaries we want to set (e.g., no phones at dinner or bedtime)?