



TALKING POINTS

TOPIC: Student Cell Phone Usage Policy

DATE: July 26, 2024

In [June 2022](#), the FCPS 2022-23 [Student Rights and Responsibilities \(SR&R\)](#) were updated to include new expectations for cell phone use that are specific to each school level: elementary, middle, high, and secondary (see below or visit the FCPS [cell phone policy webpage](#)). The new cell phone expectations were established to help foster a learning environment that is conducive to learning.

Feedback can be submitted on the [cell phone usage policy webpage](#).

Key Messages

- Grades K-6 (including 6th grade students at Glasgow Middle School):
 - Phones must be silenced and in backpacks for the duration of the school day. Cell phones may be used on campus before and after school only.
 - Smart watches that serve a dual purpose may be worn, but the phone features (texting, Internet viewing, and calls) are to be off when phone use is prohibited.
 - Students are prohibited from using phones, tablets, and other mobile devices in restrooms and locker rooms, unless there is a medical necessity or emergency.
 - With the approval of the principal or their designee, teachers may allow usage of cell phones for instructional activities where they are the most appropriate tool; however, one-to-one FCPS devices should meet most needs.

- Grades 7-8:
 - Phones must be silenced and kept put away for the duration of the school day. Cell phones may be used on campus only before the first bell and after the last bell.
 - Students are prohibited from using phones, tablets, and other mobile devices in restrooms and locker rooms, unless there is a medical necessity or emergency.

- Phones can be stored in a locker or backpack during the day. Smart watches that serve a dual purpose may be worn, but the phone features (texting, Internet viewing, and calls) are to be off when phone use is prohibited.
- With the approval of the principal or their designee, teachers may allow usage of cell phones for instructional activities where they are the most appropriate tool; however, one-to-one FCPS devices should meet most needs.
- Note: Secondary schools (i.e., Hayfield Secondary) who are not participating in the [cell phone storage pilot program](#) have the ability to permit cell phone usage during passing periods because the three schools support students in grades 7-12 who frequently use the same halls for class change.
- Grades 9-12:
 - Phones must be silenced and put away during all instructional periods.
 - Cell phones may be used on campus before the first bell, after the last bell, during passing periods, and lunches.
 - Phone accessories are also to be silenced and away when phone use is prohibited. Smart watches that serve a dual purpose may be worn, but the phone features (texting, Internet viewing, and calls) are to be off when phone use is prohibited.
 - Phones can be stored in a locker or backpack during the day. Students are prohibited from using phones, tablets, and other mobile devices in restrooms and locker rooms, unless there is a medical necessity or emergency.
 - With the approval of the principal or their designee, teachers may allow usage of cell phones for instructional activities where they are the most appropriate tool; however, one-to-one FCPS devices should meet most needs.
- If your student needs access to their phone for medical accommodations, it is important to note that the current cell phone policy and guidelines have not changed. Therefore, students who currently require access to a cell phone or another personally owned device for medical reasons, or an accommodation to access the curriculum and make progress to their individualized goals, will continue to have such access.