**Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices**

In alignment withC.R.S. 22-1-149 (added under [HB 25-1135](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1135)), charter schools must adopt and implement a policy concerning student communication device possessions and use during the school day. This sample policy is intended to be used by CSI schools in drafting their own policy. While the sample language provides a helpful starting point, each school’s policy may be tailored to its own practices and preferences within the confines of the requirements outlined in statute. This document may not be inclusive of everything a school could have in its policy, and schools are encouraged to have all policies reviewed by legal counsel prior to adoption.

**Purpose**

To establish clear, developmentally appropriate guidelines for student use of cell phones and other electronic devices during school hours and school-sponsored activities, in compliance with C.R.S. 22-1-149. This policy balances student safety, access to learning technologies, and responsible device use while maintaining a focus on academic engagement and school culture.

**Policy Statement**

[Charter School Name] recognizes that cell phones and other electronic devices are prevalent in students’ daily lives and can serve educational and safety purposes. In accordance with state law, the school permits student possession and use of such devices during the school day within defined parameters that support learning, student well-being, and safety.

**Definitions**

* **Electronic Device:** Includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, laptops, e-readers, headphones, and portable gaming devices.
* **Instructional Time:** The period during which classroom instruction is taking place, as defined by the school schedule.

**General Provisions**

1. **Allowable Use**
Students may possess and use personal electronic devices on school property and during school activities under the following conditions:
	* Before and after school hours
	* During passing periods and lunch, unless otherwise restricted by staff
	* During instructional time only with explicit permission from the classroom teacher or as required by an Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 Plan, or other documented accommodation.
2. **Restricted Use**
Students may not use personal devices:
	* To engage in academic dishonesty, bullying, harassment, or other misconduct.
	* To record, photograph, or livestream without permission from staff and all individuals being recorded.
	* In areas where privacy is expected (e.g., restrooms, locker rooms).
3. **Teacher Discretion and Classroom Management**
Teachers and staff may set additional expectations for their classrooms, provided they are:
	* Clearly communicated to students and families
	* Developmentally appropriate
	* Not in conflict with this policy or student rights under C.R.S. 22-1-149
4. **Equity Considerations**
The school will not discipline or penalize students for lack of access to personal electronic devices. No instructional activity will require students to use a personal device unless school-provided alternatives are made available.
5. **Emergency Use**
In an emergency, students may use devices to contact parents or guardians if it is safe and appropriate to do so. School personnel may also direct students to use devices for communication.
6. **Disciplinary Measures**
Inappropriate use of electronic devices may result in:
	* Verbal warnings
	* Confiscation of the device for the remainder of the day
	* Parent notification or conference
	* Repeated violations may result in temporary or progressive restrictions

Disciplinary action will not include blanket bans on possession or access to devices and will follow due process protocols.

**Parental Rights**

In accordance with C.R.S. 22-1-149(3), parents/guardians may request that their child not use a personal device during the school day. The school will honor such requests with reasonable accommodations.

Implementation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and provide opportunities for input from students, staff, and families. Updates will be communicated through handbooks and the school website.

**Adopted: XXX, 20XX**

**LEGAL REFS.:**

C.R.S. § 22-1-149 (Electronic devices in school settings – policy required)