

STUDENT USAGE OF CELL PHONES, ELECTRONIC DEVICES, GAMES AND TOYS

No student, unless authorized by the school principal or his/her designee, shall use or operate any electronic telecommunication device, including any facsimile system, radio paging service, mobile telephone service, intercom, or electro-mechanical paging system or other electronic devices in any elementary or secondary school building, or on the grounds thereof during the instructional day, or in any school bus used to transport public school students. *Use or operation* of an electronic telecommunication device shall mean the device is either visible, turned on or is in a mode capable of receiving or transmitting signals. The *instructional day* shall begin at the time students arrive on campus prior to the take-in bell and conclude upon the dismissal bell at the end of the day.

No student shall be allowed to have a cell phone, earbuds, air pods, blue tooth headphones, smart watches or other devices with wearable technology capable of sending or receiving text messages and other similar notifications radios, tape players, CD players, video games, pagers, "beepers," laser pens or other electronic devices, cameras, games and toys at any school during the instructional school day and for 30 minutes thereafter, for any reason except as specifically hereinafter stated.

If a student has written authorization from a physician to wear a medical alert device, the student may wear the device and not be in violation of this policy, but the student must present the written authorization from the physician to the principal or his designee at the beginning of the first day the device is worn to school and it must be included in the student's health plan.

These provisions shall not be applicable to a student whose Individualized Education Program, Individualized Accommodation Plan, Section 504 plan, or Individualized Health Plan requires the student's use of an electronic telecommunication device.

These provisions shall also apply to any school-sponsored event, including athletic competitions and field trips, which take place during an instructional day.

Violation of this policy shall result in the confiscation of the device by school authorities and shall be grounds for disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and/or expulsion from school, as detailed in the *Student Code of Conduct*.

Neither the Morehouse Parish School Board nor its employees shall be responsible for loss of or damage to a confiscated electronic device.

Neither the principal or his/her designee shall impose on a student any disciplinary action when any electronic communications device is stored in a motor vehicle and there is no evidence of the student's intent to use or operate the device contrary to the provisions of this policy. Neither the Morehouse Parish School Board, the school or any employee or

representative of the Morehouse Parish School Board will be responsible for the loss or damage of any electronic device that may be stolen, damaged, destroyed or confiscated.

During the instructional day, parents or guardians may contact students through the school's office.

Students shall not utilize school-issued devices to access personal messaging features and social media accounts not used for educational purposes.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the use or operation of any electronic telecommunication device by any person, including students, in the event of an emergency. An *emergency* means an actual or imminent threat to public health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

Revised: April 3, 2025

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:239, 17:416, 17:416.1; *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, Bulletin 741, Louisiana Department of Education; Board minutes, 4-3-25.