

Amherst ISD Student Personal Device Guidelines

In accordance with House Bill 1481, Amherst ISD has implemented a district-wide policy that prohibits students from using personal communication devices while on school property during the school day. This includes all instructional time, lunch, and hallway passing periods. The policy is designed to minimize distractions and support a focused learning environment. Disciplinary measures will be enforced for violations, and devices may be confiscated if used inappropriately. Unless approved under an IEP, 504 plan, or medical need, all personal communication devices ***must be left in student's vehicle or at home*** during the school day.

Personal communication devices include, but are not limited to,

- Cell Phones (smartphones or flip phones)
- Apple Watches/Smartwatches
- Tablets
- Radios
- Pagers
- Personal Laptops
- AI Glasses
- Any other device capable of telecommunication or digital communication

This law does not apply to school-issued devices.

**** NOTE: The law does provide exceptions for students with documented medical needs, special education accommodations, or 504. ****

Unless approved under an IEP, 504 plan, or medical need, all personal communication devices must be left in student's vehicle or at home during the school day.

Enforcement

1st Offense:

- Device is held in the front office and student may be pick up at the end of school day
- Parent/guardian is notified
- Lunch Detention

2nd Offense:

- Same steps as 1st offense
- Parent/guardian is notified and must pick up device at the end of the day

- 3 days of Lunch detention

3rd Offense:

- Same steps as 2nd offense
- Parent/guardian is notified and must pick up device at the end of the day.
- Parent/guardians are notified, and meetings are scheduled with parents/guardians and student. Device released at that time to parents/guardians.
- Additional documentation of the incident in behavior records
- Treated as **a serious offense per AISD Student Code of Conduct**
- Results in one day of **in-school suspension**

4th Offense:

- Same steps as above
- Treated as a **serious offense per AISD Student Code of Conduct**
- Results in **in-school suspension (two days minimum)**

****Any refusal to surrender a personal communication device when requested will be considered a violation of the SCC and could result in either a suspension or placement at DAEP. The Administrator or Campus Behavior Coordinator must use their administrative discretion to make the best disciplinary decision based on the student's disciplinary history.****

School Board Approved: 8/11/2025