

**REVISION OF
ETOWAH COUNTY SCHOOLS**

STUDENT CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

I. Cell Phones

The Etowah County School System policy on cellular telephones is designed to ensure that the use of cell phones does not interfere with teaching and learning during the school day.

- 1) Students are permitted to use cell phones before the first bell of the day and after the final bell of the day. The exact times will be set by individual schools.
- 2) The use of cell phones for any purpose – including telephone calls, text messaging, games, and other functions – is not permitted at any other time on school grounds.
- 3) Cell phones must not be visible during the school day. They should be stored in a secure location, i.e. in vehicle, pocket, purse, locker, backpack, etc.
- 4) Cell phones must be turned completely off (not simply on silent or vibrate mode) during the school day.
- 5) Students participating in field trips, extracurricular activities, and athletic events must contact their coach or sponsor for his/her rules involving cell phone use after school hours or on after-school bus trips. Coaches and sponsors will set their rules and establish consequences involving the use and/or misuse of these devices.

- 6) **The use of camera phones is strictly forbidden in private areas, such as, locker rooms, washrooms, dressing areas, classrooms, and offices at any time.** Camera phone violations may be treated as Level II or Level III Offenses when necessary. Such use may also be in violation of the criminal code.
- 7) **Any phone communication during the instructional day will take place on school telephones with permission from office personnel with the exception of emergency situations as deemed by the principal. Parents should continue to call the school for any emergency situation.**
- 8) Students are encouraged to not bring cell phones into a classroom where standardized testing is taking place. Teachers will collect any student cell phones in classrooms where standardized testing (AHSGE, Stanford 10/ARMT, Writing Assessment, etc.) is occurring. Phones will be collected before testing begins and returned at the conclusion of testing for that day.
- 9) Possession of a cell phone by a student is a privilege which may be forfeited by any student not abiding by the terms of this policy. Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones. The Etowah County School District shall not assume any responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone, or unauthorized calls made on a cell phone.

II. Other Electronic Devices

Cell phones and other electronic devices such as, but not limited to, digital cameras, camcorders, PDA's, MP3 players, and headphones, may be used as part of the instructional process, with prior **administrative** and teacher authorization. Otherwise, these devices may not be visible during the instructional day.

Students participating in field trips, extracurricular activities, and athletic events must contact their coach or sponsor for his/her rules involving electronic device use after school hours or on field trips. Coaches and sponsors will set their rules and establish consequences involving the use and/or misuse of these devices.

Possession of electronic devices by a student is a privilege which may be forfeited by any student not abiding by the terms of this policy. Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their electronic devices. The Etowah County School District shall not assume any responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of electronic devices.

Any violations of the above policy will result in the following:

First Violation - Cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated by an administrator until the student leaves campus to begin their suspension. Said student will be given out of school suspension for one (1) day.

Subsequent Violations –The student will be given out of school suspension for a period of three (3) days. At the administrator’s discretion, this violation may also be deemed as defiance.

Students found to be using a cell phone or electronic device to break other school rules (i.e. cheating, disrupting class, text messaging, etc.) will be subject to punishment per the student code of conduct.