

Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools - Cell Phones in Schools Policy

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Board of Education of **Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools** has determined the use of cell phones by students during school hours should be limited.

The objective of this policy is to strengthen **Switzerland of Ohio Local School's** focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

I. Research

Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

II. Applicability

This policy applies to the use of cell phones by students while on school property during school hours.

III. Use of cell phones

PK-8 students are prohibited from using cell phones at all times during the school day. Students in grades 9-12, are permitted to use their cell phones up to the first bell of the day and at lunch. (Exception: Beallsville 7th and 8th grade students can use their cell phones during lunch.)

IV. Exception

This policy allows a student to use a cell phone exclusively for medical purposes, such as monitoring or addressing a health concern. This accommodation, listed as assistive technology, will be determined by the student's IEP team or his/her health plan team.

V. Cell phone storage

Students shall keep their cell phones in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district, at all times when cell phone use is prohibited.

VI. Discipline

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator shall take the following progressively serious disciplinary measures (check all that apply):

1. Give the student a verbal warning and require the student to store the student's cell phone in accordance with this policy.
2. Confiscate the cell phone and securely store it in a teacher or administrator-controlled locker, bin, or drawer for the duration of the day when the student can retrieve it.
3. Confiscate the cell phone and place it in the school's central office for the remainder of the school day when the parent or guardian can retrieve it at the end of the day.
4. Confiscate the cell phone and place it in the central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian. The student loses the privilege of having a cell phone at school.
5. Once a student loses the privilege of having a cell phone at school, and he/she brings a cell phone to school again, then an appropriate consequence will be provided such as in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, etc.