

**Board of Education**  
**School District 54 (Bulkley Valley)**

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**PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE**

**6.338**

**POLICY**

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of a learning environment with limited distractions and the responsible use of digital technology. It also recognizes the research that shows that digital devices can cause distraction in the classroom and are having a negative impact on instruction, learning, and student mental health.

The intention is that schools are required to have Code of Conduct language that outlines the rules, programming, and procedures for student use of personal internet-connected devices. Codes of conduct are to restrict student personal digital devices so that they are age-appropriate, promote online safety, support focused learning environments and the development of good digital citizens.

**VALUES**

In its consideration of this policy, the Board has been guided by its *responsibility* to provide a safe and constructive learning environment.

**GUIDELINES**

**Definition**

“*Personal Internet-Connected Devices*” include, but are not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, tablet computers and portable video game systems.

**Procedures:**

1. Schools at the elementary level, will clearly indicate in their school Code of Conduct that the use of and access to personal internet-connected devices will not be permitted at any time during the school day.
2. Schools at the secondary level, will clearly indicate in their school Code of Conduct that the use of and access to personal internet-connected devices will not be permitted during instructional time. At the teacher’s discretion, an exemption may be made when the use of such devices supports a specific curricular objective and is part of instructional planning.
3. To support equity in meeting learning outcomes, all students will have access to school/district-owned technology at an age-appropriate level that supports learning and the development of digital technology skills and digital citizenship.
4. Schools can exempt specific students from restrictions on the use of personal internet-connected devices when students have accessibility, accommodation, medical or health circumstances where they need the technology to fully participate in their educational program.

Adopted: September 24, 2024