

CELL PHONES/PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

I. PURPOSE

To set forth guidelines regarding student possession of cell phone and personal communication devices.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to Shelby County Schools students.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

The increase in use of cell phones and personal communication devices by students during the school day has become far more than a distraction in the school environment. These devices are being used by students as a means of cheating on tests, taking inappropriate pictures and video of students and staff for sharing and posting across the internet, threatening and/or bullying other students, and engaging in an excessive amount of social interaction during instructional time.

Therefore, **all students are banned from possessing any type of phone or personal communication device that is turned on or in visible/audible use at any time during the regular school day.** For the purpose of this policy, possession means being found in any article of clothing, purse, book bag, carry bag, or in any location on school property other than the approved storage location as written and approved by school officials. Students who wish to carry a cell phone with them to and from school must keep the device turned off and stored (e.g., kept in the student's assigned locker, automobile, or other school approved location at all times during the entire school day), unless otherwise determined by the principal. District security officials may, if they

have reasonable suspicion to do so, search any cell phone brought onto any SCBE property, which includes but is not limited to parking areas. For the purposes of this policy the school day includes the entire day from the school start time or bell that indicates the start of the school day until the final dismissal time of the school day. The school is not responsible for any loss or theft of the device while on school property.

A student found in unauthorized possession of any type of cell phone or communication device during the school day shall have the device taken from him or her and kept by the school Principal or designee until the parent is notified. The parent may pick up the device at a the time and location designated by the principal at the close of the next school day following the day that the parent received notification or earlier at the principal's discretion. Thereafter, the parent may pick up the device by appointment.

Any subsequent violation shall result in the device being taken from the student and retained until the close of the next school day following the day that the parent received notification or earlier at the principal's discretion. Thereafter, the parent may pick up the device by appointment. Moreover, for such subsequent violation of this policy, the student shall receive additional consequences in accordance with the district-wide discipline policy.

The District does not take responsibility for confiscated items and will not compensate the owner for any lost, stolen, or damaged confiscated items while in the custody of the District.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

The Superintendent (or designee) is responsibility for administering this policy.