

OUHSD Cell Phone Policy

Appropriate use of cell phones while at school, following school expectations and engagement in learning must be taught explicitly through CR-PBIS school-wide lessons in alignment with the district and school-wide behavioral expectations of “Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible”.

Students are permitted to possess cell phones, tablets, laptops, Chromebooks, or electronic devices on campus in accordance with law and provided that any such device shall remain turned off and stored in a locker, backpack, purse, pocket, or other place where it is not visible during normal school hours. Students are permitted to use a cell phone or other electronic devices on campus before and after school, during passing period, breaks, lunch, or during school activities that occur outside of school hours. In addition, a teacher or other staff members may allow students to utilize cell phones or other electronic devices for instructional purposes.

The Governing Board recognizes that the use of smartphones and other mobile communication devices on campus may be beneficial to student learning and well-being, but could be disruptive of the instructional program in some circumstances. The Board permits limited use of mobile communication devices on campus in accordance with law. A student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7)

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger
2. When a teacher, administrator, or other district employee grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher, administrator, or other district employee
3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being
4. When the possession or use is required by the student's individualized education program

Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person. When a school official reasonably suspects that a search of a student's mobile communication device will turn up evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules, such a search shall be conducted in accordance with BP/AR 5145.12 - Search and Seizure. When a student uses a mobile communication device in an unauthorized manner, the student may be disciplined, and site administration or their designee may confiscate the device. The device shall be stored securely until it is returned to the student or turned over to site administration or their designee, as appropriate. A student may also be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, Board policy, or administrative regulation, for off-campus use of a mobile communication device which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property or substantially disrupts school activities.

The following interventions will serve as a guide for OUHSD teachers and staff to teach and monitor appropriate use of cell phones while at school. In the event students do not follow school-wide expectations, all incidents and interventions are to be documented by teachers, counselors, and administrators in AERIES.

Tier I (Teacher Intervention)

1. Teachers will give students a verbal warning and counsel students to turn off cell phone and put it away.
2. Teachers will make parent/guardian contact to discuss the importance of following expectations and that cell phones, although permitted, may not be a disruption.
3. Teachers may assign lunch intervention or community service to their student in their classroom and have students reflect on the importance of following school-wide expectations as well as an opportunity to discuss barriers or supports related to the misconduct.

4. If misconduct persists after participating in lunch intervention or community service a referral will be sent to the student's counselor for Phase II intervention.

Tier II (Counselor Intervention)

Teachers will send a referral to the student's counselor for Tier II intervention, which may include meeting with their counselor during lunch, and parent/student conference. This is also an opportunity to have a conversation related to potential barriers or student supports related to the behavior.

Tier III (Administration Intervention)

Interventions may include lunch intervention, parent to shadow the student on campus, parent/student conference, or the loss of school events such as athletics, dances, field trips, etc. If needed an SST can be coordinated to explore all options to help the student improve their behavior.