

J-25 CELL PHONE POLICY

The Opelika City Schools 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 entering the building on a school day and after exiting the building at the end of a school day.
2. The use of cell phones for any purpose – including phone calls, text messaging, games, and other functions – is not permitted during the school day or in the building at any time.
3. Cell phones must not be visible during the school day. They should be stored in a secure location (vehicle, pocket, purse, locker, athletic bag, 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 get permission from their coach or sponsor for using a cell phone after school hours or on after-school bus trips.
6. At all times, the use of camera phones is strictly forbidden in private areas, such as locker rooms, washrooms, dressing areas, classrooms, and offices. When necessary, camera phone violations may be treated as Level II or Level III offenses. Such use may also be in violation of the criminal code of Alabama.
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 deemed by the principal. Parents should continue to call the school for any emergency situation.
8. Students are not to 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 returned in accordance with school policy.
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 Opelika City School System shall not assume any responsibility for theft, loss, or damage to a cell phone, or unauthorized calls made on a cell phone.

OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

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.

VIOLATIONS OF CELL PHONE POLICY:

First Offense -- Cell phone confiscated and returned to parent.

Second Offense – Cell phone confiscated and returned to parent. The principal shall determine appropriate discipline response in consideration of the circumstance of the violation.

Third Offense – Cell phone confiscated and returned to parent. The principal shall determine appropriate discipline response in the consideration of the circumstance of the violation. Loss of cell phone privilege for the remainder of the school year.

ADOPTED: December 7, 2006