



## School District No.59 (Peace River South)

11600 - 7<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Dawson Creek, B.C.  
V1G 4R8  
Phone: (250) 782-8571  
Fax: (250) 782-3204

### Restrictions for Personal Digital Devices

Administrative Procedure: 4370: Date: June 13 , 2024

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On January 26th, 2024, the Province [announced three actions](#) for the safety and well-being of students in relation to digital technology. The announcement included restrictions on the use of cell phones in schools, which must be in place for the 2024-25 school year.

Research has shown that frequent cell phone interruptions in the classroom (especially social media notifications), along with the addictive nature of social media platforms and the rise of cyberbullying, are having a negative impact on the learning environment and on the well-being of students.

In most cases, the use of these personal devices during instructional time is already restricted in SD59. However, there will now be a consistent application of these restrictions as mandated by the Province and by the SD59 Board of Education (Policy 4370, Regulation on District Code of Conduct).

The following criteria will go into school codes of conduct for September 1, 2024.

***Effective September 1st, 2024, students will be expected to adhere to the following minimum restrictions on the use of personal internet-connected devices:***

- 2.1.1 Each school code of conduct will include a section on “Restrictions on Student Use of Personal Digital Devices\*” and the following expectations must be met:
  - a) As needed, all students will have access to school/district owned technology at an age-appropriate level that supports learning and the development of digital literacy.
  - b) As outlined in an Inclusive and Competency-Based Individual Education Plan (ICBIEP), schools will exempt specific students from restrictions on the use of personal digital devices when they are needed to support inclusion in learning.
  - c) Additionally, schools will exempt specific students from restrictions on the use of personal digital devices when they are needed as an essential support for their medical support plan and needs (i.e. diabetes, medication, etc).
  - d) Personal digital devices at the elementary school level will not be permitted at any time during the school day.
  - e) Personal digital devices at the middle and secondary school level will not be permitted during instructional time, bell-to-bell. Personal digital devices are allowed during breaks.



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- f) The security and storage of personal digital devices is the sole responsibility of the owner/user. The District assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of such devices.

\* Personal digital devices include but are not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, tablets, computers, smartwatches, Bluetooth headphones, and portable video game systems.

### Guidance for Implementation:

- Staff are to be role models for implementation and only use personal devices for health and safety reasons. Digital devices may be used when documenting student learning (pictures/videos), in alignment with the priorities in the strategic plan.
- There needs to be education and over messaging. This is not to be punitive.
- This is not a model where we look for work arounds.
- Solutions focused not complaint based.
- Starting the last week of August over communicate to parents, students, and staff.
- Be pro-active about organizing and booking out technology. If you do not have a process, create one.