

ÉSBCHS Student Personal Electronic Device Policy

[Alberta Education Ministerial Order #014/2024](#)

Personal electronic devices include smartphones, earbuds, tablets, smartwatches, Meta glasses, and hand-held video game consoles.

Vision:

By implementing this policy, ÉSBCHS aspires to significantly enhance student learning. ÉSBCHS is committed to being a safe and caring school. Our goal is to provide students with a distraction-free and focused learning environment in which they can focus on the task at hand. ÉSBCHS remains committed to better preparing students for the expectations of their future working environments.

Rationale:

Student personal device use has become an increasing concern in the classroom. The 21st-century learner can be overwhelmed with electronic distractions while in the busy school environment. ÉSBCHS is deeply concerned with the impact of students bringing smartphones and other personal devices into the classroom. Some of these concerns include:

- Lack of student focus on course instruction and practice while in possession of personal electronic devices.
- The constant distractions of alerts, text messages, phone calls, social media notifications, and games.
- Students leaving class to receive personal phone calls or respond to messages.
- Photos and videos being secretly taken that breach the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act, BGSD acceptable technology use policies, and compromise classroom security (ex. examinations, class discussions).
- The increased frequency of cyberbullying through social media applications.
- The increased stress and anxiety that students may endure due to relational aggression that occurs on electronic devices.
- An increase in student addiction to smartphone technology.
- ÉSBCHS is committed to providing students with school Chromebooks whenever required for learning purposes; thus, personal electronic devices are not required during class time.

ÉSBCHS Classroom Policies:

- Students are not permitted to have personal electronic devices on their person during class time. This includes smartwatches, cell phones, Meta glasses, and earbuds.
- Students will be permitted to use personal electronic devices before school, during breaks, spares, during lunch, and after school.
- Students must bring their own personal calculators to class.
- Physical education classes at any location will be considered a classroom space.
- **Staff members will confiscate personal electronic devices if they are found present in the classrooms and hallways except for the permitted times.**
- **First offence: The student device will remain with the teacher until the end of the class, and the teacher will communicate with the parent.**
- **Subsequent offences: The student device will be confiscated for the day and given to their alpha administrator. The teacher or administrator will contact the parent/guardian.**
- Further repeat offences may be treated as willful defiance by school administration, as per Education Act Section 31;
 - f) comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board,
 - g) co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,
 - h) be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct
 - i) positively contribute to the student's school and community.
- If parents/guardians need to reach their child/children they can contact the main office at 780-929-6282.
- If your child is required to have a personal electronic device for specific medical reasons, please contact the office.