



Britton Deerfield Schools

Effective August 25, 2025: Personal Electronic Device (PED) Policy

Purpose

The Britton Deerfield Schools Board of Education recognizes the increasing presence and influence of personal electronic devices (PEDs) including, but not limited to, cell phones, earbuds, smartwatches, and similar technologies on students' academic performance, social interactions, and school behavior. Concerns from families, staff, and community members, combined with national trends, highlight the need for clear, consistent, and enforceable guidelines regarding PED use during the school day. This policy is intended to reduce distractions, promote positive social engagement, and support a safe, focused, and respectful school environment for all students. The district will communicate this policy to all students, parents/guardians, and staff prior to the start of each school year and reinforce expectations regularly throughout the year.

We understand that parents and guardians may need to communicate with their students during the school day. If you need to reach your student, please contact the school office directly. Our staff will ensure your message is delivered promptly. This process helps maintain a focused and distraction-free learning environment while ensuring students remain connected to their families when it matters most.

General Provisions

- **Personal Electronic Device (PED):** Any privately-owned device capable of transmitting or receiving data, sound, or images, including (but not limited to) cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, and similar devices.
- **Responsibility:** The district is not responsible for the security, loss, theft, or damage of any PED brought to school.
- **Compliance:** Students who choose to bring PEDs to school must adhere to the rules outlined by their grade level.

Grade-Level Guidelines

Elementary School (Grades K–5)

- PEDs must be silenced and stored in a backpack, locker, or district-provided storage container for the duration of the school day.
- PEDs may not be used before school, during school hours, or during recess.
- PED use is permitted only after school dismissal.

Middle School (Grades 6–8)

- PEDs must be silenced and stored in a backpack, locker, or district-provided storage container upon entering the building and classroom.
- PEDs may not be accessed or used during the school day, including before school, passing periods, and lunch.
- PED use is permitted only after school dismissal.

High School (Grades 9–12)

- PEDs must be silenced and stored in a backpack, locker, or district-provided storage container upon entering the building and classroom.
- Students may use PEDs before and after the school day, during transition periods, and at lunch.
- PEDs may not be used during instructional time unless expressly permitted by the teacher for educational purposes.

Exceptions

- **Medical Needs or Disabilities:** Students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan includes the use of specific electronic devices as an accommodation.
- **Emergency Communication:** In cases of imminent safety threats, natural disasters, or other emergencies as directed by staff.
- **Instructional Use:** Teachers may authorize PED use for instructional purposes within their classroom at their discretion.

Violations and Consequences

First Offense

- The teacher/administrator will conference with the student to review the policy and issue a verbal warning.

Second Offense

- Parents/guardians will be notified.
- The student's phone or other PED will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the period or school day, as determined by building procedures.

Third Offense

- Parents/guardians will be notified.
- The student will conference with the building administration.
- The student's phone or PED will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day (or require parent pickup).
- The student may receive a detention, in-school, or short-term suspension.

Multiple Offenses

- Parents/guardians will be required to attend a conference with the building administration.
- A personalized "phone plan" will be developed to address ongoing issues, which may include restrictions on bringing PEDs to school.

- **NOTE:** If a student does not surrender their device/items to a BD Staff member when requested, they are considered insubordinate, and will face disciplinary consequences. This may include out-of-school suspensions and an immediate move to the 3rd Offense.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the administration and Board of Education to ensure it remains effective and responsive to changing technology and community needs.