



EDGE SCHOOL

**PERSONAL MOBILE
DEVICES POLICY**

Academics | Athletics | Character

edgeschool.com

TITLE: Personal Mobile Devices

BOARD APPROVAL: Pending

RATIONALE:

In 2024, the Government of Alberta announced [new standards](#) to limit personal mobile device use and social media in classrooms starting in the 2024-2025 school year. The Minister of Education subsequently issued [Ministerial Order #014/2024](#) which outlines the expectations for schools starting in the 2024-25 school year.

In the spring of 2024, the Minister of Education [wrote a letter](#) which explains the reasons behind this policy, what schools are being asked to do, and what to expect starting in the 2024-25 school year.

DEFINITIONS:

Personal Mobile Devices: Any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet, such as a cellphone or smartwatch.

Instructional Time: All times throughout the school day except before school, lunchtime and after school. Includes time scheduled for the purposes of instruction, examination/testing, and other student activities where direct student-teacher interaction and supervision are maintained whether on-campus or off-campus.

Social Media: Platforms and applications that enable users to create and share content or participate in social networking.

I PRINCIPLES:

The Alberta Government conducted wide stakeholder engagement and reviewed recent research and statistics regarding the impact of mobile devices and social media use in classrooms. This research review found reports of increased distraction, instances of inappropriate usage, negative impacts on learning and mental health, and an increase in cyberbullying. According to the 2023 UNESCO report on Technology in Education it can take up to 20 minutes for a student to refocus on learning after checking their phone, which in turn impacts recall and comprehension.

A 2023 Statistics Canada report found that one in every four Canadian teens has experienced cyberbullying, ranging from online or text message threats, to hurtful information posted about them online, to being excluded from virtual communities. Another Statistics Canada study reported mental wellness rates dropped from 77.9 percent in 2015 to 62.3 percent in 2021 in young Canadians between 12 and 17.

This policy is developed in compliance with the Alberta Government directive.

II PROCEDURES:

1. The expectation at Edge School is that no students will have cell phones/wearable devices (smart watches) during instructional time. Personal Mobile Devices are to be stored in lockers. Personal Mobile Devices are not permitted anywhere in the school (including hallways, gym, library, common areas, learning commons etc.) during instructional time.
2. For all students these devices may be accessed during the lunch period, provided they are used in accordance with all other Edge School policies. Students are encouraged to refrain from using personal mobile devices during the lunch period and to use that time to engage with their peers, to have a nutrition break or to be active.
3. If these devices are taken out during instructional time, they will be placed in a designated location (device storage caddy in the student's instructional space).
4. There may be times that phones are used for educational purposes during instructional time. At these times, the teacher will let the students know that they are to bring devices to class.
5. Students will not be permitted to access social media on school networks at any time while at school. These sites are blocked on the school servers.
6. Personal Mobile Devices are NOT ALLOWED in the clinic, washrooms, change rooms and team rooms at any time.
7. There may be cases where a student (with appropriate medical documentation) is allowed to have a cell phone or smartwatch for medical purposes during class time. These exceptions need to be approved by school administration.
8. Repeated instances of Personal Mobile Devices Policy infractions will be treated as a disciplinary matter. The [Edge School Code of Conduct](#) and the [Edge School Student Suspension and Expulsion Policy](#) will be used to determine next steps. Students may ultimately be banned from bringing Personal Mobile Devices to school at all.
9. It is strongly recommended for students to leave personal mobile devices at home. The safest place for storage of personal mobile devices is at home. Students who choose to bring personal mobile devices to school do so at their own risk.
 - a. The school assumes no liability for lost, stolen or damaged personal mobile devices.
 - b. Parents/guardians and students assume full responsibility if their device is lost, stolen or damaged.
 - c. Any devices that are brought to school are to be stored in designated places as defined by the school during instructional time and out of view. All personal mobile devices are to be powered off or placed on silent mode.
10. After consultation with the parent council and after review of the policy throughout the year, there may be changes made to this policy.

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