

PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES AT SCHOOL

Background

The Ministry of Education and Child Care amended the provincial standards for Codes of Conduct Order requiring school districts to have appropriate policies in place to restrict student personal digital device use as of July 1, 2024. This operational procedure is aligned with Ministry guidelines to support the Ministerial Order.

The purpose of this operational procedure is to restrict the use of personal digital devices at school for the purpose of promoting online safety and maintain focused learning environments. There will be a tiered approach to the use of personal digital devices in School District 72 to help ensure an age-appropriate use that is reflective of the students' developmental stage.

Definitions

Personal Digital Devices For the purposes of this procedure personal digital devices include, but are not limited to smartphones, tablet computers, laptops/netbooks, and gaming devices brought from home.

Procedures

1. General

- 1.1 At secondary schools, students will be restricted from using personal digital devices during instructional hours unless they have been given permission from their teacher or school principal/vice-principal.
- 1.2 At middle schools, students will be restricted from using personal digital devices during instructional hours and at break times (including lunch and recess). Students will only be allowed to use personal digital devices during instructional hours with the permission of their teacher or school principal/vice-principal.
- 1.3 At elementary schools, students will be restricted from using personal digital devices at school at any time unless they have been given permission from their teacher or school principal/vice-principal.
- 1.4 Specific parameters and guidelines will be established by school codes of conduct.

2. Instructional Purposes

- 2.1 All schools will have digital devices available for instructional purposes and digital literacy.
- 2.2 Schools will use their discretion when allowing the use of personal digital devices for instructional purposes.

3. Accessibility and Accommodation

- 3.1 Accessibility and accommodation needs will be provided for students who need them. The district will work with schools through the Inclusive Education department to ascertain student needs and determine supports.

4. **Medical and Health Needs**

- 4.1 Medical and health needs will be examined, and students will have the access to technology they need in this regard.
- 4.2 The Inclusive Education department will work with schools to ensure that students who need technology for medical or health reasons are identified, and a plan will be established to fulfill these needs.

5. **Equity**

- 5.1 Equity will be considered and students who need access to technology will not be disadvantaged when it comes to technological access.

Reference: Ministerial Order No. M89/24

Related Operational Procedures: [OP 140 Technology and Acceptable Use Guidelines](#)
[OP 360 Codes of Conduct](#)

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