

June 20, 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

New Restrictions on Personal Digital Device Usage at School

Please be advised that the school district has updated [Procedure 145 – Use of Personal Digital Devices](#) in line with the [provincial government's direction](#) to restrict the use of cellphones at schools. The revised procedure comes into effect on July 1, 2024.

The definition of a personal digital device includes, but is not limited to, any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as cellphones, tablets, smart watches, gaming devices and electronic toys, and includes the use of earbuds and headphones.

Research shows that frequent cellphone interruption in the classroom, social media platforms with addictive algorithms and predators who seek to exploit young people all present significant risks to young people. The revised procedure will create appropriate structures around the use of personal digital devices at school and aims to positively impact students' mental health and ability to focus on learning.

- Elementary Schools: Personal digital devices are not to be used at any time during the school day, including during instructional time, recess, lunch and field trips.
- Secondary Schools: Personal digital devices are not permitted to be used during instructional time, which includes Flex time and field trips, except when explicitly required by the teacher for educational purposes.
- Schools will communicate any additional information specific to their location prior to the start of the new school year.
- Students with disabilities, unique learning abilities or health-related requirements will still be able to use personal digital devices in line with their designated support plans and Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
- Schools will communicate with parents/caregivers should any urgent situations arise.
- If parents/caregivers need to contact their child urgently, they should call the school office.

Educators will continue to spend time teaching digital literacy and promoting online safety with the aim of helping students use their personal digital devices responsibly and

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respectfully, and to develop lifelong healthy habits around technology and social media use in their everyday lives.

For more detailed information, please click the links below:

- Infographic and Frequently Asked Questions – [Elementary School](#) and [Secondary School](#)
- [Procedure 145 – Use of Personal Digital Devices](#)
- [Personal Digital Devices: Research and Resources](#)

If you have any questions, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,



Doug Sheppard  
Superintendent of Schools