

## Restrictions on the Use of Personal Digital Devices at Elementary Schools



Instructional time



Recess, lunch and field trips



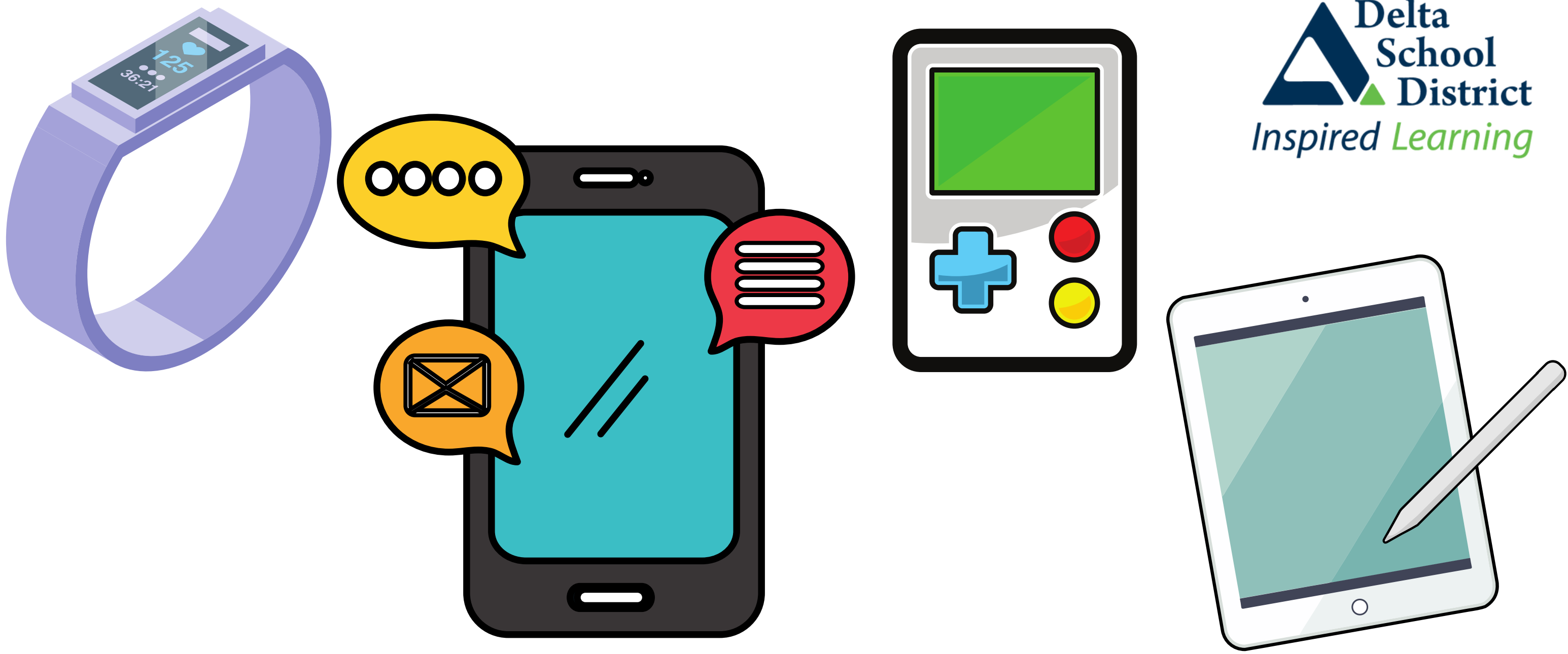
**Students with diverse abilities or health-related needs can use personal digital devices at any time in line with their designated support plans and Individual Education Plans (IEPs)**



**If you need to contact your child during the day, please call the school office**

**Please speak to the school administration if you have any questions**

**Procedure 145 - Use of Personal Digital Devices**



# Restrictions on the Use of Personal Digital Devices at Elementary Schools

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is changing?**

Elementary school students will no longer be able to use their personal digital devices at school. This includes during instructional time, recess, lunch and field trips. Schools will communicate any additional information specific to their site prior to the start of the new school year.

### **What is a personal digital device?**

It 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. The restriction also applies to the use of earbuds and headphones.

### **When will this change take effect?**

The new procedure takes effect on July 1, 2024.

### **Are there any exceptions?**

Students with diverse abilities or health-related requirements will continue to be able to use their personal digital devices in line with their designated support plans and Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

### **Why can't my child use their phone at school?**

Research shows that frequent cellphone interruption in the classroom distracts students from focused learning. While there is an appropriate time and place for personal digital devices, including when they support student accessibility and health purposes, the aim of this restriction is to help students learn to use their devices responsibly and respectfully, including knowing when to put them away.

It is hoped the restriction will also positively impact students' mental health and help them develop lifelong healthy habits around technology and social media use in their everyday lives.

### **How will I be able to contact my child during the day?**

If you need to contact your child urgently, please contact the school office for assistance.

### **Will the school cover the cost of my child's phone if it is damaged or goes missing while in storage?**

The security of personal digital devices is the sole responsibility of the owner/user. The district assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of personal digital devices.

### **Why was this change introduced?**

In January 2024, the B.C. government introduced actions to restrict the use of cellphones in schools, keep children and young people safe from online threats, and hold social media companies accountable for the harm they have caused.

School districts were required to have policies in place to be able to restrict students' cellphone use in the classroom by July 1, 2024. Although the Delta School District already had a procedure in place, this has now been updated in line with the government's requirements.