

Elbert Junior-Senior High School FAQ – Cell Phone Procedure

What is the rationale for students not having access to their phones during lunch and passing periods?

- Social-emotional health
 - Prioritizing school as a place for learning that is distraction free.
 - Getting rid of the urge for students to constantly check their phone instead of having their undivided attention on learning.
- Cyber-bullying
 - Limiting the opportunity for students to have pictures and videos taken of them by other students without their permission.
 - Limiting/eliminating the opportunity for students to text, message, or post things on social media during the school day.
- Minimizing inappropriate use of social media
 - The inappropriate use of social media is a problem throughout the country. Students will have less opportunity to use social media during the school day.

What devices fall under this procedure?

- Cell phones, watches with cell phone capabilities, any device that can act like a cell phone with text and online features. Students are issued an electronic device to complete their work in the school.

When can a student access his/her cell phone in school?

- Students are strongly encouraged to leave their cell phone at home.
- Upon entering the building, the phone must be kept in a pocket or backpack until the student can put it away in their locker. Once the school day begins, a student may keep his/her phone in his/her locker. Upon entering any classroom, students must place their phones in a spot designated by the teacher. A student may not have a cell phone on his/her person (including a backpack, purse or other bag) while in class. Cell phones can be used during passing periods, Up Times and after 4:06 pm.

What is defined as using a cell phone?

- Any viewing or use of a cell phone during prohibited times. It is important that students understand not to put themselves in the position of a staff member suspecting them of viewing their phone. It is one thing for a student to accidentally have it fall out of their bag or locker, pick it up, and place it back in the locker. This is different than a student who appears to be or is actually using it. Long story short...don't put yourself in a position where it looks like you are using it. Students who put it away when entering the building, keep it in their locker during the day, and don't access it until after 4:06 pm outside the building will have no issues with this procedure.

How can I get a message to my student?

- You are welcome to call the main office at (303) 648-3030. We have office assistants who can deliver a message. You may also text your student knowing they will get the message during breaks in the day.

What is the progressive discipline model for students who disobey the procedure?

- 1st Offense - Verbal warning (accidents can happen). The phone is then placed in the teacher's designated spot.
- 2nd Offense - Student can pick up his/her phone from an administrator after 4:06 pm.
- 3rd Offense - Parent must pick up the phone from an administrator.

4th Offense - One day of in-school suspension for repeated disobedience. Parent must pick up the phone from an administrator.

5th Offense - Student loses his/her phone privileges at school. Students must surrender his/her phone to an administrator at the start of each day.

***Any cell phone usage that is determined to have taken place during school hours, even after the fact, will be enforced by the progressive discipline model.

What if I can't get to the school to pick up the phone that was confiscated?

➤ Parents can send another adult, 18 years or older, to pick up the phone from the administrator/main office. The phone will not be given back to the student on the 3rd time for the same infraction. (See progressive discipline model)

What if another student accesses my student's cell phone during school hours?

➤ Students are responsible for what belongs to them. The student who used the cell phone and the student whose cell phone was used would both be in violation of the cell phone procedure and be subject to the progressive discipline model.

What if I want my student to have his/her cell phone with them at all times?

➤ Students with a documented need to have their phone on them from a licensed professional will be permitted to have it.

What if my student has a documented medical need requiring they have a cell phone on him/her?

➤ A student who has a health plan on file with the school nurse stating that a cell phone is used to monitor a diagnosed health need is a legitimate reason for a student to have their phone on them at all times. Please consult with our school nurse if your student falls into this category. The nurse will make sure all appropriate staff are aware of the documented need. Students who have this accommodation and use their cell phone for any other purpose will follow a similar progressive disciplinary plan.

What if my cell phone is stolen?

➤ Students are encouraged to leave their cell phones at home. Elbert School District 200 is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal devices brought to school. Students are issued lockers at the beginning of each school year. Combination locks will be checked-out by the principal upon request. Furthermore, every hall locker at Elbert School is visible via the school's security camera system, making theft less likely.