



## XXX: Acceptable Use of Cellular Phones, Smart Watches, and Electronic Devices: Usage in Schools, on School Property or During School Related Activities (P)

**Approved: 24 05 28**

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### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Board of Education (the Board) recognizes its role in providing guidance to students in the use of technology, including cell phones, smart watches, and other electronic devices, within school settings for instructional purposes, while taking important steps to keep children and youth safe from online threats and harmful impacts of social media by providing the knowledge and tools they need to stay safe, become good digital citizens, and develop healthy relationships with technology.

The Board believes educational spaces during school related instructional time should provide space for focussed learning and positive interpersonal connections with fewer distractions and interruptions. Students are expected to use technology, including cell phones, smart watches, and other electronic devices responsibly to enhance their education, and become a responsible digital citizen. Students have a responsibility to use their personal electronic devices ethically, safely, and responsibly. It is important to learn how to use these devices in appropriate and healthy ways.

The Board supports the use of technology, including cell phones, smart watches, and other electronic devices, for instructional purposes in appropriate ways at the direction of supervising staff. The purpose of this Policy and accompanying Administrative Procedures is to provide guidance in the acceptable use of technology by students within schools for instructional purposes. While it is recognized cell phones, smart watches, and other electronic devices can be a tremendous asset that supports diverse learners and removes barriers to inclusion, it is also recognized that these devices can be harmful, disruptive, and distracting to individuals in the learning environment.

To this end, the use of technology, including cell phones, smart watches, and other electronic devices, within school settings is regulated during instructional time unless permission is granted by the supervising staff for instructional purposes. Each school shall develop guidelines for the acceptable use of technology by students in the classroom, school, school sponsored or school related activities on or off school property. The school guidelines will reference the district policy and administrative procedures and will be posted in the School Codes of Conduct.

### **Resources and References**

XXX: Acceptable Use of Cellular Phones, Smart Watches, and Electronic Devices: Usage in Schools, on School Property or During School Related Activities (A/P)

Boundary School District – Regulation No. 3035: Technology – Personally Owned Electronic Devices

Mission Public Schools – DRAFT Use of Technology by Students Policy 3.8

Province of British Columbia News Release (January 29, 2024): [B.C. Launches Concrete Actions to Keep Kids Safe, Healthy.](#)

Saanich School District – Codes of Conduct Policy Statement