



# Policy No. 209

## **STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL INTERNET-CONNECTED DEVICES**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Board of Trustees expects a learning environment with limited distractions and the responsible use of digital technology. It recognizes the research that shows that frequent cellphone interruption in the classroom, social media platforms with addictive algorithms and an increasing level of cyberbullying and online exploitation of young people, are having a negative impact on instruction, learning, and student mental health.

The District will develop restrictions, programming, and procedures for student use of personal internet-connected devices that are age-appropriate and support the development of good digital citizens.

“*Personal Internet-Connected Devices*” include, but are not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, tablet computers, smartwatches, and portable video game systems.

### **GUIDING LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS**

- *Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct - Ministerial Order No. M89*

### **REGULATIONS**

The following regulations will be included in school codes of conduct.

1. All students will have access to school/district-owned technology at an age-appropriate level that supports learning and the development of digital technology skills and digital citizenship.
2. As outlined in an Individual Education Plan (IEP), schools will exempt specific students from restrictions on the use of personal internet-connected devices when they are needed for full inclusion in a specific learning activity.
3. At the elementary school level, the use of and access to personal internet-connected devices will not be permitted at any time during the school day.
4. Access to and the use of, personal internet-connected devices at the middle and secondary levels will not be permitted during instructional time. At the teacher’s discretion, an exemption may be made when the use of such devices supports a specific curricular objective and is part of instructional planning.
5. Instructional time includes not just regular classroom settings, but assemblies, guest speakers, field trips, on the land events and other events organized by teachers or administrators.

6. The security and storage of personal internet-connected devices is the sole responsibility of the owner/user. The District assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of such devices.

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