

STUDENT CELL PHONE AND SMART DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE

Definitions

As used in this policy and related regulations,

"Bell to bell" means after the first bell rings at the start of the school day to begin instructional time until the dismissal bell rings at the end of the school day. "Bell to bell" includes lunch and time in between class periods.

"Smart device" means any personal electronic device that can connect to the internet and wirelessly collect, process, and transmit data, including smart watches and tablets.

Generally

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board establishes age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate restrictions for student use and possession of cell phones and smart devices on school property from bell-to-bell.

The executive director issues regulations setting forth the restrictions and procedures to be followed to effectuate this policy.¹ Any regulations issued in accordance with this policy may include additional exemptions, including procedures for emergency communications with students.

Student Cell Phones and Smart Devices on School Property

Students are permitted to use and possess cell phones and smart devices on school property before or after bell to bell, subject to additional regulations as may be issued. Such permitted use must not result in distractions or disruptions to the learning environment, disruptive behavior, bullying, harassment, crime, or any other behavior that violates other policies, regulations or laws.

From bell to bell, students are restricted from using or possessing cell phones on school property in accordance with this policy, issued regulations, and applicable laws.

Exemptions

Any student who, pursuant to an Individualized Education Plan, Section 504 Plan, individualized health care plan, or Limited English Proficiency plan, is permitted to possess and use a cell phone or smart device on school property, including in the classroom, from bell to bell to monitor or address a health or physical safety concern or as an accommodation or assistive technology support.

Implementation and Enforcement

The executive director of the school is responsible for implementing and enforcing this policy. Any implementation and enforcement of this policy minimizes, to the extent possible, any conflict with the instructional responsibilities of teachers or any disturbance to instructional time and does not involve any school resource officer employed in the school.

Discipline of Students

No student will be suspended or expelled solely for a violation of this policy. Any violation of this policy that involves, coincides with, or results in an instance of disruptive behavior, bullying, harassment, crime, or any other behavior that violates other policies, regulations, or laws, is subject to discipline, addressed in accordance with the Standards of Student Conduct and applicable policies and regulations.

Adopted: October 16, 2025

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79.3:1, 22.1-276.01, 22.1-277, 22.1-279.6.

Cross Refs.:	Pol 2065	Acceptable Computer System Use
	Pol 8002	Student Conduct
	Pol 8015	Teacher Removal of Students from Class
	Pol 8029	Search and Seizure
	Pol 8000/5011	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
	Pol 8090	Student Suspension/Expulsion
	Pol 8013	Disciplining Students with Disabilities
	Pol 4071	School Service Providers' Use of Student Personal Information