

Adopted: 8.19.25

Reviewed:

Student Cell Phone Policy - 513

General Statement of Policy

This policy establishes clear and consistent rules regarding student possession and use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices in school settings. It is adopted in compliance with the new Minnesota law requiring all school districts to implement such a policy by March 15, 2025.

The goal is to balance the flexibility needed to meet SRMCS's specific needs with the responsibility to safeguard students' academic performance, mental health, and well-being.

Authority of the School Board & Administration

- The SRMCS School Board delegates the responsibility of establishing specific cell phone use rules to the Executive Director and school administration.
- Rules may be tailored by grade level or other relevant criteria.
- The Board may establish general guidelines; administration has the authority to adjust procedures to fit school needs.

Focus on Minimizing Negative Impacts

- The primary goals are to minimize negative effects of personal electronic device use on student behavior, mental health, and academic performance.
- This policy recognizes that excessive or inappropriate device use can disrupt learning and social well-being.

Collaboration with State Associations

- SRMCS will use best practices provided by the Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association and Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals to help guide policy development and improvement.

Cell Phone & Electronic Device Usage Rules

Student Handbook Provisions

- SRMCS serves grades K–6.
- Students must keep all personal electronic devices powered off and stored in their backpacks while on school property.
- Exceptions require approval from both the classroom teacher and the Executive Director.

Prohibited Uses

Students may not use personal devices for activities that violate school policies, including:

1. Cheating
2. Bullying
3. Harassment
4. Malicious behavior
5. Sadistic conduct

Search and Seizure of Devices

- Reasonable Suspicion: If there is reasonable suspicion that a device has been used inappropriately or unlawfully, school staff may search the device.
- Scope: Any search will be limited to material relevant to the suspected violation.
- Confiscation: Devices used in violation of this policy may be confiscated and, if necessary, turned over to law enforcement. Confiscated devices will be returned according to school procedures.

Disciplinary Actions

- Students who misuse personal devices are subject to disciplinary action under SRMCS's discipline policy.
- Consequences may include verbal warnings, detention, or more serious actions depending on the severity of the infraction.
- Confiscated devices will be returned according to building-specific procedures, which may require a waiting period or meeting certain conditions before return.

State Law Requirement

- Minnesota law (Minn. Stat. § 121A.73) requires all school districts to adopt a cell phone use policy by March 15, 2025.
- The law grants local schools flexibility in setting rules appropriate to their context, as long as misuse is addressed and protections are in place for the educational environment.

Summary

This policy gives SRMCS administration the authority to set and enforce rules for student cell phone use, with the priority of maintaining a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment. All procedures will be clearly communicated in the Student Handbook, and misuse—including bullying, cheating, or harassment—will result in consequences. Searches and confiscations will be conducted within the boundaries of the law and school policy.

Legal Reference:

Minn. Stat. § 121A.73