

Personal Electronic Device Policy

Under [The Disconnect Act of 2025](#), District law, beginning in the 2026-27 school year, K-12 students may not possess a personal wireless communication device (“personal device”) at any time during the full school day, starting at the time that instruction begins each day and ending at the time students are dismissed daily, including during lunch periods and transitions between classes. Personal devices are those not owned or provided by the school. The following personal devices may not be possessed by K-12 students during the full school day:

- Cellular phones
- Tablet computers
- Laptop computers
- Gaming devices
- Smart watches with communications capabilities
- Headphones (wireless or wired)
- Wireless hotspots
- Smart Glasses

Students who choose to bring personal devices to school must place them at a designated secure storage location upon arrival to campus, where it will be kept for the full school day. Each school campus is responsible for establishing secure storage location(s) and processes for collecting personal devices upon student arrival and subsequently distributing personal devices when students dismiss. Students are not allowed to keep personal devices in locations that are personally accessible during the school day (for example, in a purse, backpack, or pocket).

Personal devices are the sole responsibility of students who choose to bring them onto school campus. Personal devices are brought on school premises at the student’s own risk. Two Rivers assumes no responsibility for personal devices, and will not replace, any lost, damaged, or stolen personal devices. This is applicable to all devices, including devices that have been confiscated by the LEA.

While DC schools are not legally required to allow for exemptions from their personal device policies, there are limited circumstances in which a personal device may be necessary on an individual basis. Two Rivers does not allow personal devices to be used for educational purposes. Two Rivers will provide all necessary technology for an enriching learning environment for each of our students. It is inequitable for our staff to require or expect student use of a personal device for a student to participate fully in their education.

Exemptions for Educational and Medical Purposes

Two Rivers does not allow personal devices to be used for educational purposes. Two Rivers provides all necessary technology for an enriching learning environment for each of our students. It is inequitable for Two Rivers staff to require or expect student use of a personal device for a student to participate fully in their education.

At no time should a student’s personal device be used for educational purposes due to inclusion of a device in a student’s individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan. This is consistent with District regulations requiring that all identified assistive technology be provided by the school at no cost to the parent.

Specifically, Two Rivers must provide assistive technology devices and services to a student with a disability in accordance with the student's IEP. LEAs cannot require a student with a disability or a parent to purchase or otherwise provide assistive technology devices or assistive technology services that are necessary for the student to access a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

Medical Exemptions

A student may possess their personal device(s) during instructional time if possession is necessary for managing health care needs. Health care needs are defined by law as “specific medical requirements or disability or health-related supports that are documented by a licensed medical provider with the LEA and that require the use of a personal device for monitoring a medical condition, administering medication, receiving health-related alerts, receiving disability-related supports, or communicating with medical personnel or caregivers regarding the student's health during the school day.”

To obtain a medical exemption, students or their families must provide documentation from a licensed medical provider to their Principal demonstrating a health care need as defined by the law. Medical exemptions do not expire (unless they are temporary) and shall be signed or approved by a private physician, their representative, or the public health authority stating that personal device possession is medically necessary for the student. Physicians may use the Universal Health Certificate to indicate medical exemption or submit a signed or stamped letter indicating that personal device possession is medically necessary. Medical exemptions that are temporary shall be monitored by the Attendance and Records Coordinator to determine when the student is no longer eligible to possess a personal device.

Students or their families are encouraged to provide the required documentation upon, or immediately following, enrollment in a school. Schools will not be able to grant an exemption without appropriate documentation in place.

Medically exempted students may not use their personal devices outside of medically necessary uses and are encouraged to only use their personal devices outside of instruction time in school-designated locations (for example a nurse's office) if possible, to avoid potential confusion.

Early Dismissal and Off Campus Travel During School Hours

If a student dismisses early or must leave campus for a school-allowed reason (e.g., to attend an employer-based internship opportunity), they may retrieve their personal device from the school's designated secure storage location and maintain possession of the personal device for the duration of the time that they are off campus. Students are required to place their personal device(s) at the school's designated secure storage location if they return to campus.

Two Rivers students are not allowed personal device possession during field studies or off-campus extracurricular activities during school hours.

Exemption Enforcement

If an exemption is approved, the Dean will maintain a record of all exempted students and the reason for the exemption. These records will be kept in a secure location to prevent unauthorized disclosure of students' private information. A list of all exempted students without the identified reason will be maintained by the

Dean, shared with all school staff, and will be in an easily available location so that staff may quickly check to see if a specific student is exempt.

Interventions

Students may not be suspended or disciplinarily unenrolled for violating the personal device policy.

Elementary school staff are considering interventions that will correct student behavior and acknowledge how possession impacts a distraction-free learning environment while ultimately keeping the student in the classroom. More specific details regarding interventions and procedures will be shared with elementary school families before the start of school.

The Middle School will continue to be personal device free during the instructional day in accordance with new laws. Specific daily procedures and interventions may be found on the Two Rivers Website linked here.

All school staff are expected to help ensure that our learning environments are distraction-free and will be trained accordingly. However, ultimate enforcement of interventions for unauthorized personal device possession is the responsibility of Deans and School Leaders. To prevent potential confusion, school volunteers or guests are not allowed to enforce a school's personal device policy. To avoid conflict, schools are expected to adhere to their protocol for alerting the Deans or Principals in instances when misbehavior escalates.

Interventions will reset at the start of each school day. While the policy will be enforced starting on the first day of school, interventions will begin after the first week of school is complete to allow students to adapt to distraction-free learning. At Two Rivers we will adhere to the following interventions when students violate our personal device policy:

Infraction Frequency	Interventions
First Infraction	· Securely store student's personal device for the remainder of the day according to school's storage processes · The device must be retrieved by a parent or guardian from the Principal or Dean
Second Infraction	· Securely store student's personal device for the remainder of the day according to school's storage processes · The device must be retrieved by a parent or guardian from the Principal or Dean The student will be placed on a Phone/Device Plan to ensure proper security of the device at the start of the school day.
Third and Subsequent	· Securely store student's personal device for the remainder of the day according to school's storage processes · Repeated violations may result in further disciplinary action, as outlined in our school-wide behavior response ladder.

Other Student Behavior

Other student code of conduct violations not directly related to the unauthorized possession of a personal device will be enforced in accordance with the school's code of conduct. For example, if a student is using a personal device to bully and/or harass another student, this is a violation of Two Rivers' code of conduct regarding bullying.

Emergency Communications Policy

Nothing is more important to Two Rivers than the safety of our students. When a parent or guardian of an enrolled student needs to communicate urgent information to their child during the school day, they should contact the Front Desk Associate (FDA) of your student's school. Do not attempt to call students' cellphones or their teachers. Telephone number for each campus can be found [here](#) on the Two Rivers website.

Policy Assessment and Revision

DC law requires LEAs to establish a process and timeline to assess whether the policy is working and how to refine it.[15]

To ensure this policy is effective and minimizes the risk of disproportionate impact on specific student groups, Bridget Jackson at Two Rivers PCS will conduct a policy assessment prior to the start of each school year and when necessary, make revisions. In assessing the policy, Two Rivers PCS will examine:

- Policy code of conduct enforcement data, ensuring that the policy is being enforced fairly and appropriately across student populations,
- Student and family input, including data collected from survey administration and qualitative conversations with student and parent advisory groups; and
- Collected feedback from Two Rivers PCS educators regarding effective and ineffective practices.

Annually, Bridget Jackson and their designee(s) will:

- Convene stakeholders, particularly families, students, and educators, to gather feedback on the policy and associated interventions as written;
- Examine Two Rivers social studies instruction for alignment with the media literacy and civics standards within the [Washington, DC Social Studies Standards](#);
- Review each Two Rivers PCS school's discipline data for patterns of potentially inequitable enforcement and compliance with District law; and
- Update the Two Rivers PCS policy based on this annual review, as needed.

Bridget Jackson may choose their own tools to gather relevant feedback or may leverage the Stanford Social Media Lab and Tech and Society Lab at NYU Stern's Toolkit for Assessing Phones in Schools ([The TAPS](#)).

Changes to this policy will be communicated and published **at least 15 days** before