

TK–8 Student Cell Phone and Mobile Device Policy

Purpose

Dr. Lewis Dolphin Stallworth, Sr. Charter School is committed to maintaining a safe, focused, and productive learning environment. The use of personal cell phones and other mobile communication devices during the school day can disrupt instruction, interfere with student learning, and impact student safety. Therefore, the following policy has been established for all students in Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 8.

Student Use of Cell Phones and Mobile Devices

Students may bring cell phones, smart watches with communication capabilities, and other personal mobile devices to school; however, all devices must remain turned off or silenced and stored out of sight during the instructional day unless one of the exceptions outlined in this policy applies.

Students are prohibited from using personal mobile devices during:

- Classroom instruction
- Assemblies
- School activities
- Recess and lunch periods
- Passing periods
- Any other time during the school day unless specifically authorized

Authorized Use of Mobile Devices

Students may use their mobile devices only under the following circumstances:

1. During a school-wide emergency or threat when communication is necessary.
2. When a teacher, administrator, or other authorized school employee grants permission for an educational or school-related purpose.
3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that use of the device is necessary for the student's health or well-being.
4. When use of the device is required as part of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or other documented accommodation.

Confiscation Procedures

Students caught using a mobile device on campus during the school day without authorization will have the device temporarily confiscated by a school employee.

Consequences for TK–8 Students

First Offense

- The device will be confiscated by school personnel and held in the school office.
- The student may pick up the device at the end of the school day.

Second Offense

- The device will be confiscated by school personnel and held in the school office.
- A parent/guardian must pick up the device at the end of the school day.
- The student will be referred to the office.

Third Offense and Subsequent Offenses

- The device will be confiscated by school personnel and held in the school office.
- A parent/guardian must pick up the device.
- A parent conference with administration will be required.
- Additional school consequences may be assigned consistent with school discipline procedures.

Searches of Mobile Devices

School employees shall not search a student's cell phone or mobile device without parental consent unless:

1. A valid warrant has been issued;
2. An emergency involving immediate danger of death or serious physical injury requires access to the device; or
3. The search is otherwise authorized under California Penal Code Section 1546.1 or other applicable law.

School staff may confiscate a device when necessary to enforce school rules; however, confiscation does not authorize school personnel to access, review, or search the contents of the device except as permitted by law.

Liability

Students bring personal mobile devices to school at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, damaged, or misplaced devices.

Legal Authority

This policy is adopted pursuant to:

- California Education Code Section 48901.7, which authorizes school districts and charter schools to regulate or limit student smartphone use while students are under the supervision and control of school employees.
- California Education Code Section 48901.5, which permits schools to regulate the possession and use of electronic signaling devices on campus.
- California Penal Code Section 1546.1 (California Electronic Communications Privacy Act), which limits government access to electronic device information and establishes requirements for searches of electronic devices.

By enrolling at Dr. Lewis Dolphin Stallworth, Sr. Charter School, students and parents acknowledge and agree to comply with this Cell Phone and Mobile Device Policy.