



Personal Internet-Enabled Device Policy

Mastery Schools is committed to providing every student with a safe, focused, and engaging learning environment. Research consistently demonstrates that unregulated use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day is associated with lower academic performance, increased distractions, and negative impacts on student well-being. In alignment with this evidence and our commitment to student success, Mastery has adopted a bell-to-bell policy prohibiting student use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day.

Scope and Covered Devices

This policy applies to all Mastery students in kindergarten through grade 12 across all campuses during the entirety of the school day, from the opening bell through the dismissal bell, including time between classes, transitions, and lunch.

Personal internet-enabled devices subject to this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Smartphones and cell phones
- Tablets and e-readers
- Smartwatches and other wearable internet-enabled devices
- Smart glasses and similar devices

This policy applies to students' personal, privately owned devices. It does not apply to Mastery-issued technology (such as Chromebooks) used for educational purposes under the direction of school staff, which are governed by the Student Technology Policies outlined in this handbook.

Bell-to-Bell Prohibition

Students are prohibited from using personal internet-enabled devices during the school day. Devices must be powered off or silenced and stored in accordance with campus guidelines, which may include school-managed lockers, lockboxes, locked pouches, or storage in the student's own backpack or locker as directed by campus leadership.

Each campus will communicate specific storage expectations to students and families at the start of the school year and reinforce them throughout the year. Students are responsible for following their campus's storage procedures consistently.

Mastery is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of personal devices brought to school. Students bring personal devices to campus at their own risk.

Exceptions

Mastery recognizes that some students have documented needs that require access to a personal internet-enabled device during the school day. Exceptions to this policy will be made in the following circumstances:

- To fulfill accommodations outlined in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- To support the implementation of a 504 Plan
- To implement a student health plan for monitoring or addressing a documented health condition, upon submission of documentation from a licensed healthcare professional
- For translation services
- For a student who serves as a caregiver and is routinely responsible for the care or well-being of a family member
- When no reasonable alternative to the use of the device for a specific purpose exists, upon authorization by the School Leader or designee
- In the event of an emergency

Families who believe their student requires a device-related accommodation should contact the School Leader or Assistant School Leader of Specialized Services to request one. All exceptions must be documented and approved by campus leadership, and will be reviewed on a regular basis. Staff will implement approved exceptions with sensitivity and confidentiality.

Emergency and Family Communication

In the event of a family emergency or need to reach a student during the school day, families should contact the school's main office directly. School staff will ensure that students receive important messages in a timely manner through established notification procedures.

In the event of an emergency on campus, students should follow the directions of school staff and emergency personnel regarding the use of personal devices. Campus emergency protocols, including any guidance on device use during emergencies, are incorporated into school safety plans and communicated to students and families.

Consequences for Policy Violations

Violations of this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Mastery Disciplinary Code of Conduct. Consequences are applied progressively, are developmentally appropriate, and are designed to reinforce behavioral expectations while keeping students engaged in learning. Repeated or willful violations may result in escalating consequences, including confiscation of the device and mandatory parent or guardian contact.

When a device is confiscated, campus staff will follow established procedures for secure handling, storage, and retrieval of the device, which may include return to the student at the end of the day or to the parent or guardian.

Communication and Acknowledgment

Campus-specific expectations under this policy, including storage procedures and any additional provisions for school buses or school-sponsored activities, will be communicated to students and families at the start of each school year through student orientation, back-to-school events, and school

communications. Families and students are required to annually acknowledge receipt of and agreement to this policy.

Questions about this policy or a student's specific circumstances should be directed to the campus School Leader.