

## **Student Use of Cell Phones and Similar Electronic Devices**

Policy Code: **4205**

---

The term “cell phone and similar electronic devices” means any portable communication device that is capable of sending and/or receiving audio, video, picture, electronic mail or text messages.. Such devices shall include, but not be limited to, any beeper, cell phone, game boy, or other similar device.

While on any campus of Cherokee County Schools, students may not use cell phones or other similar electronic devices during regularly scheduled school hours. Cell phones shall be turned off at all times during regularly scheduled school hours. Cell phones shall not be visible during regularly scheduled school hours. The use of cell phones will be permitted during athletic events and other non-instructional school activities.

- For the first offense, the phone/device will be confiscated and a parent conference with the principal or designee will be held. A contract must be signed by the parent/legal guardian, student and principal/designee that the student will not be in possession of any phone/device while on school property for ten (10) consecutive school days.
- For the second offense, the phone/device will be taken and kept in possession of school administrators for 15 consecutive school days.
- For all subsequent offenses, the phone/device will be taken and kept in possession of school administrators for 30 consecutive school days. These days shall continue into the next semester or into the next school year as needed.
- At the completion of each penalty, the device may be retrieved by the parent. If the penalty has not been completed prior to summer vacation, the parent may retrieve the device for the term of the vacation, but the penalty must be satisfied at the beginning of the next term.

Failure to surrender the phone/device to an appropriate school official will result in further disciplinary actions as outlined in the *Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook*.

Any content contained on a phone/device confiscated by school personnel is subject to review by school personnel and law enforcement personnel, if there is reasonable cause to believe that there is inappropriate material not suitable for the educational environment.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -391

Cross References: School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315), Student Searches (policy 4342)

Adopted: June 9, 2005  
Amended: August 9, 2007  
Amended: March 11, 2010  
Amended: November 3, 2011

**CONTRACT WITH PARENTS**

I have read and understand that my child violated the cell phone policy and shall not be in possession of any cell phone/device while on school property for ten days. I also understand the consequences that follow if my child violates the cell phone policy again.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_