



Subject: Mobile Communication Devices

Approved By: Board of Directors

Policy: 5038.1

EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL

Effective Date: June 11, 2026

Revised Date:

INLAND EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL

Effective Date: June 11, 2026

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I. Purpose

In accordance with California Assembly Bill 3216 (2024), the Board establishes this policy to foster an educational environment characterized by high academic engagement and meaningful peer interaction. By limiting and/or prohibiting student smartphone use while on school grounds or under the direct supervision of school personnel, the Board aims to minimize digital distractions, mitigate the negative impacts of social media on student mental health, and ensure that the instructional day remains focused on learning and safety. This policy reflects our commitment to providing a distraction-free campus that complies with state mandates while prioritizing the holistic development and well-being of every pupil.

II. TK-8 Academies & Learning Centers

In our TK-8 in-person environments, student cellphones and personal devices shall remain inaccessible during learning periods. Phones must be turned off and stored inside the student's backpack or other designated area during class time.

School programs may, in collaboration with the program's stakeholders and charter administration, develop a plan that places additional reasonable restrictions on the usage of cellphones and personal devices at school and school sponsored events. These guidelines shall be sent to all stakeholder groups via multiple methods of communication including but not limited to ParentSquare, email, school presentations, Canvas, and on-campus print media.

III. High School Academies & Learning Centers (Grades 9-12)

In our high school settings, students must turn off and place their phones in the provided locked boxes, inside their backpacks, or in another designated area upon entering the classroom or designated learning area.

Recognizing that smartphones play a role in high school students' learning and collaboration, personal devices may be used for specific academic tasks at the teacher's explicit discretion. Such tasks should be targeted and intentional in nature and shall not include actions such as using a phone for listening to

personal music while working. If a teacher has not authorized use for a specific lesson, the device must remain stored.

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IV. Home-Based Programs

While learning occurs in a home setting, clear boundaries are necessary during synchronous instructional time and site-based check-ins.

- Synchronous Sessions: During virtual classes or 1-on-1 meetings with instructors, students are expected to keep cellphones in a separate room or put away to ensure full engagement.
- Site Visits: When home-based students visit a Learning Center for testing or meetings, they must adhere to the TK-8 or High School storage policies outlined above as well as any additional rules established by the site or program.
- Stakeholder Partnership: We encourage caregivers to mirror the "phone away" philosophy during designated instructional hours to build consistent habits.

V. Consequences

School programs may choose to implement consequences for unsanctioned use of electronic devices during the school day. These consequences shall be progressive in nature and may include but are not limited to:

1. The device is confiscated by staff and kept in the administrative office until the end of the school day.
2. The device is confiscated and held in the administrative office. A parent or guardian must come to the school to retrieve the device.
3. The device is confiscated and the student must turn in the phone at the beginning of each school day to the administrative office for a specific period of time.
4. A student can be prohibited from bringing a device to the site for a determined period of time.

VI. Other Provisions

The use of any electronic device, including cell phones, may NOT be used at any time in the gym locker rooms and restrooms.

When a school official reasonably suspects that a search of a student's mobile communication device will turn up evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules, such a search shall be conducted in accordance with charter policy.

A student may also be subject to discipline, in accordance with law (California Education Code 48900), Board policy, or administrative regulation, for off-campus use of a mobile communication device that poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property or substantially disrupts school activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform students that the charter school is not responsible for a student's mobile communication device that is brought on campus or to a school activity and is lost, stolen, or damaged.

VII. Organizational Commitment to Safety and Communication

The Board recognizes that communication between families is vital. To maintain a secure environment, we emphasize the following:

- **Emergency Contact:** Caregivers and guardians needing to reach their student during the school day should call the Main Office/Front Desk. Staff will ensure messages or urgent needs are communicated to students immediately.
- **Student Emergencies:** If a student needs to contact a parent, they may use a school-designated phone located in the administrative office.
- **Safety Protocols:** In the event of a campus-wide emergency, school staff will follow established safety protocols to communicate with all families via our emergency notification system.

VIII. Exceptions

A student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7)

1. In the case of an emergency or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
2. When a teacher, administrator, or other employee grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher, administrator or other district employee.
3. When a licensed physician and surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being.
4. When possession or use is required by the student's individualized education program (IEP).

