



August 8, 2025

### **2025-2026 CELL PHONE POLICY, REGULATION AND CODE OF CONDUCT GUIDELINES**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On January 14, 2025, Governor Phil Murphy called for a statewide cell phone ban in all schools during his annual State of the State address. The proposal was for all New Jersey school districts to adopt policies to ban cellphones in classrooms. The governor said that these policies would help address the youth mental health crisis and improve student learning, because cell phones often distract kids.

As we prepare for the 2025-2026 school year and our goal to foster a cell phone free campus, administration seeks to inform our students and families of our district policy and regulation for electronic communication devices, as well as the student code of conduct guidelines addressing violations of the policy.

In case of an emergency or in an attempt to inform students of changes in transportation or pickup times, Main Office staff are available before, during and after the school day to receive phone calls at 856-451-6610 ext. 100. In the event of illness or health-related concerns, our school nurse will contact parents and may receive phone calls at 856-451-6610 ext. 106.

**Students may contact parents and guardians regarding additional questions or concerns with the assistance of our classroom teachers using classroom phones or through our staff in the Main Office.**

As we seek to support our students and their families through this effort to create a cell phone free campus, our staff will work diligently to offer phone communication opportunities between students and home.

The following pages include Deerfield Township School District's current policy and regulations. Students are prohibited from using an electronic communication device [i.e., cell phone, electronic gaming devices or other disruptive technology items (i.e., smartwatch, iPods, iPads, etc.)] anywhere on school grounds during the school day to include, but not be limited to: during DTS before and after school programs; during any co-curricular activity; and on a school bus. Cell

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phones are to be turned off and stowed during all academic and non-academic times (i.e., lunch, recess, co-curricular activities).

The Deerfield Township Code of Conduct includes the following administrative responses to a violation of Tier 1: Use of a cell phone, electronic gaming devices or other disruptive technology items (i.e., smartwatch, iPods, iPads, etc.):

1. First Violation: Parent Contact; Documented Warning
2. Second Violation: Parent Contact; Hold in Main Office to be returned at the end of school day
3. Third Violation: Parent Conference; Hold in Main Office to be returned at the end of school day; One (1) Lunch and Learn
4. Fourth and Subsequent Violation(s): Parent Conference; Hold in Main Office to be returned at the end of school day; One (1) Restoration and Reflection Session

\*Infractions that include recording any student or staff member with a cell phone or other disruptive technology items may be assigned O.S.S. for a period of time determined by Administration.

Please review the following policy, regulation and code of conduct guidelines with your DTS student prior to the start of the school year, as well as avenues available in our classrooms, Main Office and Nurse's Office for students to contact parents and guardians during the school day without the use of cell phones.

Respectfully,

DTS Administration

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# Policy

STUDENTS

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Use of Electronic Communication Devices

Revised February 25, 2025

## 5516 USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates and their teachers, and to focus attention upon instruction, the Board of Education has determined the use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices by students for personal use during the school day and school activities should be limited.

As used in this Policy, “electronic communication device” includes any device with the capability to audio or video record and/or is capable of receiving or transmitting any type of communication with others. An electronic communication device includes, but is not limited to, any type of cameras; cellular and wireless telephones; pagers/beepers; laptop computers; watches; electronic readers; two-way radios; any audio or video broadcasting devices; ear buds; tablets; headphones; and any other device that allows a person to audio and/or video record and/or transmit, in either a real time or a delayed basis, video or still images, text, audio recordings; or other information.

The Board adopts Regulation 5516 and this Policy to address student use of an electronic communication device for personal use on school grounds during the school day, to also include, but not be limited to: during before and after school programs; during any co-curricular activity; and on a school bus.

Nothing in Regulation 5516 and this Policy shall prohibit a student from using an electronic communication device for a purpose documented in a classified student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a plan developed under Section 504 of the “Rehabilitation Act of 1973,” 29 USC 794. A student may use an electronic communication device to monitor or address a health condition with prior permission from the Principal, in consultation with the school nurse to be documented in the student’s Individual Health Plan.

In addition, the Board believes students and/or school staff members should not be subject to having any type of recording taken of any student(s) or school staff member(s) for any purpose without the consent of the student and the student’s parent or the school staff member.

In addition to protecting the privacy rights of students and school staff members, the Board recognizes such recordings can be disruptive to the educational program. Inappropriate recordings of educational material, student assessment instruments, and/or

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student assessment reviews can be used to compromise the integrity of the district's educational program or lead to academic dishonesty in the event such recordings are stored and/or transmitted to other students

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# Regulation

STUDENTS

R 5516/page 1 of 7

Use of Electronic Communication Devices

Revised February 25, 2025

## R 5516 USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The following provisions govern student use of electronic communication devices on school grounds.

### A. Use of Electronic Communication Devices

1. Students are prohibited from using an electronic communication device anywhere on school grounds during the school day to include, but not be limited to: during before and after school programs; during any co-curricular activity; and on a school bus.
2. Under no circumstances is a student permitted to use an electronic communication device to communicate or take videos or photographs in a restroom, locker room, shower area, or any other area where any person is removing or changing cloths and/or in any other area or location where a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy. Student use of an electronic communication device for communicating or recording is also subject to the provisions of Policy 5516 and this Regulation.
3. Students are encouraged not to bring electronic communication devices to school. If a student chooses to bring an electronic communication device(s) to school, the device(s) shall be turned off by the student and passcode protected to prevent any unauthorized use of the device. The electronic communication device shall remain in the student's backpack/book bag or locker during the school day when its use is not authorized in accordance with Policy 5516 and this Regulation.
4. If a student brings an electronic communication device to school, the student assumes the risk of damage, theft, or loss of the electronic communication device. The school district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.
5. If a student needs to be in contact with their parent(s) during a time the student is not permitted to use an electronic device, the student shall request permission from a teaching staff member to go to the main office

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to use the school phone. If a parent(s) needs to be in contact with their student for an emergency, the parent(s) shall contact the main office.

**B. Discipline**

**1. First Offense in a School Year**

- a. The electronic communication device shall be taken from the student by the school staff member and turned in to the Principal or designee's office for the remainder of the academic school day.
- b. The student shall turn off the electronic communication device and ensure it is passcode protected before turning it in to a school staff member.
- c. The student will be able to pick up the electronic communication device in the Principal or designee's office at the end of the academic school day.
- d. The student will have the electronic communication device returned upon signing an acknowledgment of their first offense violation of Policy 5516 and this Regulation.
- e. The following discipline will be imposed on a student for a first offense of the provisions in Policy 5516 and this Regulation:

**(1) Elementary and Middle School Student**

- a. Contact parent/guardian
- b. Documented warning

**2. Second Offense in a School Year**

- a. The electronic communication device shall be taken from the student by the school staff member and turned in to the Principal or designee's office for the remainder of the academic school day.
- b. The student shall turn off the electronic communication device and ensure it is passcode protected before turning it in to a school staff member.

- c. The electronic communication device must be picked up at the Principal or designee's office by a parent no sooner than the end of the current, academic school day.
- d. If the parent cannot pick up the electronic communication device by the end of the academic school day, the parent may pick up the electronic communication device before the end of the next or any subsequent school day.
- e. The parent shall be required to sign for receipt of the electronic communication device with notice provided of a second offense in a school year for their child.
- f. The following discipline will be imposed on a student for a second offense of the provisions in Policy 5516 and this Regulation:
  - (1) Elementary and Middle School Student
    - a. Parent/Guardian contact.
    - b. Hold the device in the Main Office to be returned at the end of the school day.

3. Third Offense in a School Year

- a. The electronic communication device shall be taken from the student by the school staff member and turned in to the Principal or designee's office for the remainder of the academic school day.
- b. The student shall turn off the electronic communication device and ensure it is passcode protected before turning it in to a school staff member.
- c. The electronic communication device must be picked up at the Principal or designee's office by a parent no sooner than the end of the current, academic school day.
- d. If the parent cannot pick up the electronic communication device by the end of the academic school day, the parent may pick up the electronic communication device before the end of the next or any subsequent school day.
- e. The parent shall be required to sign for receipt of the electronic communication device with notice provided of a third offense in a school year for their child.

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- f. The following discipline will be imposed on a student for a third offense of the provisions in Policy 5516 and this Regulation:

- (1) Elementary and Middle School Student
  - a. Parent/Guardian conference
  - b. Hold the device in the Main Office to be returned at the end of the school day.
  - c. 1 Lunch and Learn

4. Fourth Offense in a School Year

- a. The electronic communication device shall be taken from the student by the school staff member and turned in to the Principal or designee's office for the remainder of the academic school day.
- b. The student shall turn off the electronic communication device and ensure it is passcode protected before turning it in to a school staff member.
- c. The electronic communication device must be picked up at the Principal or designee's office by a parent no sooner than the end of the current, academic school day.
- d. If the parent cannot pick up the electronic communication device by the end of the academic school day, the parent may pick up the electronic communication device before the end of the next or any subsequent school day.
- e. The parent shall be required to sign for receipt of the electronic communication device with notice provided of a fourth offense in a school year for their child.
- f. The following discipline will be imposed on a student for a fourth offense of the provisions in Policy 5516 and this Regulation:

- (1) Elementary and Middle School Student
  - a. Parent/Guardian conference
  - b. Hold the device in the Main Office to be returned at the end of the school day.
  - c. 1 Restoration and Reflection Session