

Personal Mobile Device Use in Schools Policy

Frequently asked questions for families of students in elementary and secondary schools across the Yukon.



Q: What devices does this policy apply to?

A: This policy applies to any device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone, laptop, smart watch, or a tablet.

Q: How can families reach their child/ren when they are at school or in class?

A: Families should call the school if they need to reach their child/ren during the school day or while they are in class. Contact information is available on each school's website.

Q: When will my child/ren have access to their device while in school?

A: Elementary schools: Elementary school students cannot use personal devices during school hours.

Secondary schools: Secondary students can use their devices during breaks, like between classes and at lunch, and before or after school. The policy only limits device use during class time.

K-12 schools: the elementary policy will apply to K-7 students, and the secondary school policy will apply to students in grades 8-12. In the case of a grade 7 and above split classroom, the principal will determine which grade level policy applies to those students.

Q: Does this policy apply to use during field trips, extracurricular activities, and off-site learning?

A: The policy applies during regular school or class hours, whether students are at school or learning somewhere else (like on a field trip). For school events that happen outside regular hours (like extracurricular activities), each school may determine how personal device use will be managed.

Q: Does this policy apply to educators?

A: No, this policy applies to students. Educators are encouraged to model the expected behaviour and use devices for work purposes during instructional hours. For example, to contact coworkers or students' families.

Q: What if my child/ren use their personal devices for medical reasons or inclusive education purposes during school hours?

A: Your child/ren can continue to use their personal devices for medical reasons or for inclusive education purposes during school hours. Use of devices beyond these purposes is still restricted. For example, a child who needs a cell phone as a medical support plan to monitor their blood sugar cannot use this device to access social media during class. Contact your school's principal if you'd like to better understand your child/ren's access to a device.

Q: What will happen if my child/ren use their devices in school?

A: The department will provide guidance and information on approaches for misuse to school principals. This will include information on ensuring educational rather than punitive responses for misuse as well as encourage progressive discipline (e.g., different approach for first versus third misuse).

School-based implementation plans will include information on the approaches to misuse so students and families know what to expect. Please contact your school's principal to understand how misuse will be managed at your child/ren's school.

Q: How are students learning about healthy device use?

A: Students in Yukon schools learn about healthy device use. Community partners are also welcomed into classrooms to share their knowledge with students.

The Yukon uses the British Columbia curriculum, and it provides opportunities for students to learn about the healthy use of technology. [The Physical Health and Education curriculum](#) aims to promote physical and mental health and develop healthy relationships. It includes information on the potential effects associated with social media, and about managing technology use.

Q: How are students learning digital literacy?

A: Students in Yukon schools learn about digital literacy and how to keep themselves safe online. Community partners are also welcomed into classrooms to share their knowledge with students. From Kindergarten to Grade 9, teachers talk to students about online safety as part of the [Applied Design, Skills and Technologies curriculum](#).

For older students in grades 10 to 12, [Career-Life Education 10-12](#) classes teach students about digital citizenship and being responsible and ethical while online.

The Department of Education also recognizes Media Literacy Week and Digital Citizen Day and shares information and resources with educators to promote these annual events.

Q: How will students access devices for digital learning at school?

A: Students will continue to have access to school-issued devices through their school.

Q: What if our school has an existing school-based policy?

A: The department's policy sets the minimum standards that applies to all schools. Schools may decide to go above what is required. They can integrate existing school-based policies into their implementation plans as long as they align with the standards and outlined in the policy.

**Q: What is a school-based implementation plan for personal mobile devices?
Who contributes to the development of the plan?**

A: Schools will develop school-based implementation plans that will outline the roles and responsibilities of school community members; including school staff, students and families.

Information on day-to-day contact and in the event of an emergency will be included along with how educator discretion, exceptions to the policy, and misuse will be managed.