



Next Step Personal Mobile Device Policy 2024-2025

Background

The use of personal mobile devices (PMDs) has increased significantly in recent years. While they offer benefits like improved communication and access to information, they can also distract students and impact mental health, engagement, and learning. Regulating PMD use ensures safe, respectful, and productive learning environments. Appropriate use enhances safety, minimizes disruptions, and protects privacy and academic integrity.

A personal mobile device (PMD) is any electronic device for communication or internet access, like cellphones, tablets, laptops, or smartwatches.

Use of PMDs

Students shall not access a PMD during instructional times unless:

- documentation is provided to the principal or designate that confirms the use if for an identified special learning need or medical condition.
- given permission by the teacher for a specific educational task or purpose.

Students can access their PMD during scheduled break periods.

Storage of PMDs

At Next Step, all personal mobile devices (PMDs) must be stored out of sight and powered off during instructional time. We encourage students to leave PMDs at home. Those who bring them do so at their own risk, as the school and Elk Island Public Schools are not responsible for their safety, security, loss, or repair.

General Information

Students shall not take PMDs into test or examinations settings. PMDs also shall not be used in change rooms, washrooms, private counselling rooms or any setting that has the potential to violate a person's reasonable expectation of privacy.

Progressive Discipline

Students are accountable for their conduct under [AP 350: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Unauthorized use of personal mobile devices will result in progressive discipline, with parents/guardians notified as needed.

	Disciplinary practice
First Infraction	Warning: Student is instructed to put their phone away
Second Infraction	Administration holds phone for safekeeping, discipline log, and contact parent/caregiver
Third Infraction	School Suspension

*The principal or staff will consider individual circumstances and may move further down the disciplinary practice as required.

Parent/Caregiver Communication with Students

Parents are asked not to contact their child's PMD during school/instructional hours. For urgent matters, please call the school at 780-464-1899 to reach your child.

Small steps are still progress!