

Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities

POLICY

Policy #: 01-WLS-ALL-0235
Effective Date: 08-19-2024
Person Responsible: Superintendent

Subject: Student Cell Phones
Last Revision:

Approvals/Date:

Brent Ober 8/19/24
Superintendent, WCBDD Date

Martha Waeber 8/19/24
Board President, WCBDD Date

The following definitions will apply:

Cell Phone— a handheld electronic device used for communication through voice calls, text messages, and internet access.

It shall be the policy of the Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities to establish, maintain and to administer a program/system for personal cell phone usage by Wood Lane students which meets the requirements of county, state, and Federal regulations/laws/statutes.

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities has determined the use of cell phones by students during school hours should be limited.

The objective of this policy is to strengthen Wood Lane School's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

This policy applies to the use of cell phones by students while on school property during school hours.

Students are prohibited from using cell phones at all times unless the cell phone is needed for one of the exceptions listed below.

- Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.
- A student may use a cell phone to monitor or address a health concern.

References: Ohio House Bill 250
Rehabilitation Act of 1973
29 U.S.C. 794.
ORC 3313.753
ORC 3323

Procedures: 02-WLS-ALL-0912 (CR)

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