

## TCSO Student Cell Phone/Device Policy UPDATE



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After much discussion, the TCSO School Board of Trustees approved changes to the student device/cell phone policy (Policy JE) at the July 18th public board meeting. These changes were made to eliminate the distractions of cell phone use, notifications, smart watches, etc. during the school day in order to provide the best educational setting for learning to occur. The district understands this will be a dramatic change for some of our students and parents. Thus, the district asks parents/guardians/students to read the changes below and sign the acknowledgement at the bottom of the back page. **This form must be signed and returned to the school office.**

- Students are not permitted to have cell phones or smart watches out during the school day. The school day is defined as the time the student arrives at school until 3:30 p.m.
- Students who need cell phones for medical reasons (such as diabetes) will be allowed to use their phones for that purpose and that purpose only.
- The following discipline ladder will be used for cell phones/personal devices/smart watches:
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Warning issued to the student and device taken up; retrieval will be in the front office at the end of the school day
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Device is taken up and must be retrieved by a parent/guardian or designee (only due to work constraints)
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** Device is taken up and must be retrieved by a parent/guardian or designee (only due to work constraints); In-School Detention will be issued for two (2) days; no personal device is allowed at school for the remainder of the semester
  - **4<sup>th</sup> Offense:** Device is taken up and must be retrieved by a parent/guardian or designee (only due to work constraints); In-School Detention will be issued for five (5) days; no personal device is allowed at school for the remainder of the semester
  - **5<sup>th</sup> Offense:** Device is taken up and must be retrieved by a parent/guardian or designee (only due to work constraints); Out-of-School Suspension will be issued for three (3) days and Alternative School placement for 15 days will occur; no personal device will be allowed for the remainder of the school year

- **6<sup>th</sup> Offense and Beyond:** Device is taken up and must be retrieved by a parent/guardian or designee (only due to work constraints); Administration will consider additional days to be assigned for Alternative School placement and other discipline options as necessary; no personal device is allowed at school for the remainder of the school year
- Administrators will have the option to move to any step as needed at their discretion. Staff are not responsible for damage to personal devices or lost/stolen personal devices.

If parents need to relay messages to their children, they will need to call the front office of their child's school. Messages will be given to children/teachers as needed. In the event of an emergency, teachers, staff, and administrators will have the capability to contact the office, emergency personnel, etc. The district sends urgent/informative messages to parents/guardians through multiple platforms to keep parents/guardians and the community informed. Questions regarding policy should be directed to the TCSD School Board, as the policy body of the school district. Here are the phone numbers of each school's front office for reference:

Belmont High: 662-454-7924  
 Belmont Middle: 662-454-3844  
 Belmont Elementary: 662-454-3379  
 Burnsville Elementary School: 662-427-9226  
 Iuka Elementary School: 662-423-9290  
 Iuka Middle School: 662-423-3316  
 TCCTC: 662-438-6689  
 TCHS: 662-423-7300  
 Tishomingo Elementary School: 662-438-6800  
 TCSD Alternative School: 662-438-7338

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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I have read the TCSD Cell Phone/Device/Smart Watch Policy Update and understand students are not allowed to use cell phones/personal devices/smart watches during school hours. School hours are defined as arrival on campus through 3:30 p.m. I understand the discipline ladder for violations of this policy. Please sign below for record of acknowledgement.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ School of Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_