
CELL PHONES, SMARTPHONES, PAGERS & OTHER ELECTRONIC SIGNALING DEVICES POLICY

The Excel Academy Charter Schools (“EACS” or the “Charter School”) Board of Directors recognizes the potential for cell phones, smartphones, pagers, and electronic signaling devices (hereinafter collectively referred to as “private devices”) to disrupt the learning environment of the Charter School, and adopts this Policy to permit students to possess, but not use private devices while at school-sponsored activities, or under the supervision of Charter School employees, except as otherwise provided in this Policy. Students who possess any private devices must always keep them turned off and out of view while at school-sponsored activities and functions. Charter School teachers, administrators, and staff will confiscate any private devices used by a student in violation of this Policy.

All students are required to adhere to the following guidelines regarding private devices:

Private devices may be used:

- a. Before or after any Charter School sponsored activity occurring before or after the regular school day.
- b. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
- c. When a teacher or administrator of the Charter School grants permission to a student to possess or use a private device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator.
- d. When a licensed physician and surgeon determines that the possession or use of a private device is necessary for the health or well-being of the student.
- e. When the possession or use of a private device is required in a student’s individualized education program (“IEP”).

Private devices shall be turned off and shall not be used:

- a. During events sponsored by the Charter School held before or after regular school hours.
- b. During class time with a content & community provider.
- c. During participation in assessments.
- d. On field trips or excursions sponsored by the Charter School.

Possession of private devices is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this Policy. All Charter School employees shall remove any private device from the possession of a student found to be violating this Policy. If a private device is heard ringing, beeping, or buzzing from inside a jacket, purse, backpack, or other similar article, whether within the immediate presence of the student or not, a Charter School employee may remove the private device and confiscate the private device. Parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up any confiscated private devices at the conclusion of a Charter School sponsored activity.

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In addition to this Policy, all other applicable Charter School student discipline policies and rules shall apply to any student who fails to comply with the requirements of this Policy.

Students who possess any private device(s) shall assume sole responsibility for the maintenance and care of any such private device(s) in accordance with this Policy. At no time shall the Charter School be responsible for preventing theft, loss or damage to any private devices brought to Charter School sponsored activities.