

605: Student Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy

a. Purpose:

Providence Creek Academy Charter School (PCA) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment that maximizes instructional time and minimizes distractions. This policy establishes expectations for student use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices during the school day in accordance with Delaware Senate Bill 106 (SB 106). The policy promotes responsible technology use while supporting student learning, school safety, and effective communication between school and home.

b. Definitions:

- a. Cell Phone: A portable electronic device used for communication through voice calls, text messages, internet access, or similar communication methods.
- b. Personal Electronic Device: Any personally owned device capable of voice, text, image, video, internet connectivity, recording, or data transmission, including smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, headphones, earbuds, handheld gaming devices, wearable technology, and similar electronic devices.
- c. Instructional Time: Educator-led time dedicated to teaching and learning, including classroom instruction, testing, assemblies, intervention periods, and other academic activities.
- d. School Hours: The time from student arrival on campus until dismissal, including instructional and non-instructional periods.

c. Policy Statement:

- a. Student use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices is prohibited in the cafeteria during breakfast and anywhere on campus during the hours of 7:45AM – 3:30PM.
 - i. Use on the school bus is at the discretion of the school bus driver.
- b. All cell phones and electronic devices shall remain powered off or on silent and stored in student lockers, or backpack/bags if the student does not have a locker.
 - i. School staff may designate other storage areas as warranted.
- c. Exceptions may be granted when:
 - i. Authorized by school staff.
 - ii. Required by an approved medical, ADA, or IDEA accommodation.
- d. Students needing to contact a parent or guardian during school hours shall obtain permission from school staff. Parents or guardians needing to contact a student during school hours should contact the main office.
- e. Students shall use cell phones and electronic devices (when authorized) responsibly and in a manner that does not disrupt instruction, interfere with school operations, compromise safety, or violate the rights of others.

- f. Students are not permitted to access the school's Wi-Fi network on their cell phones and personal electronic devices.
 - g. Providence Creek Academy assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones or personal electronic devices.
 - h. Violations of this policy shall be addressed through the PCA Code of Conduct, which includes time-limited confiscation of the cell phone or personal electronic device.
- d. Communication and Responsibility:
 - a. This policy shall be communicated annually through the Student Handbook, school website, and other school communications.
 - b. Requests for accommodations shall be submitted to school administration with appropriate supporting documentation.
 - c. It is the responsibility of all students to abide by all aspects of this policy and school staff to enforce aspects of this policy.
 - d. Designated school personnel will monitor discipline data related to policy violations through regular data review meetings, and implement targeted interventions as warranted.
- e. Related Policies:
 - a. 601: Acceptable Use Policy for Electronic-Technology Resources
- f. Related Procedures and Documents:
 - a. PCA Student Code of Conduct
 - b. PCA Student Handbook
 - c. State of Delaware. Senate Bill 106. 2025. *Delaware General Assembly*, legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail/142100

Approval and Revision Dates:

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUGUST 31, 2026