

Ridgedale Local Schools Cell Phone Policy

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, teachers, and instruction, the Board of Education of **Ridgedale Local Schools** has determined that students' use of cell phones during school hours should be limited.

This policy aims to strengthen **Ridgedale's** focus on learning, which aligns with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

I. Research

Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools negatively affects 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.

II. Applicability

This policy applies to students using cell phones while on school property during school hours.

III. Use of cell phones

Students are prohibited from using cell phones in the school building during the school day, with the exception of a teacher's permission for a lesson or administrator's permission.

IV. Exception

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.

V. Cell phone storage

Students may keep their cell phones in their locker, bag, or on their person at the Jr/Sr High building. Students must keep their cell phones in their lockers at the elementary building.

VI. Discipline

A teacher or administrator may take the following measures if a student violates this policy.

- ☐ Give the student a verbal warning and require them to store their cell phone out of sight.
- ☐ Securely store the student's cell phone in a teacher- or administrator-controlled locker, bin, or drawer for the class or period.
- ☐ Place the student's cell phone in the school's central office for the remainder of the school day.
- ☐ Place the student's cell phone in the school's central office to be picked up by the guardian.
- ☐ Schedule a conference with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the student's cell phone use.
- ☐ Loss of privilege of using the cell phone at school for a designated time
- ☐ School-issued discipline for chronic violators of the policy.