



Student Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy

Purpose

PUENTE Charter School is committed to providing a safe, focused, and engaging learning environment that promotes academic achievement, student well-being, and positive social interaction. Personal electronic devices, including cell phones, can create distractions that interfere with instruction, learning, and student engagement. This policy establishes expectations for student use of personal electronic devices during the school day.

This policy is adopted pursuant to California Education Code Section 48901.7.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, "personal electronic devices" include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones and smartphones
- Smartwatches with communication capabilities
- Earbuds and headphones
- Tablets and similar personal communication devices
- Smart glasses

Student Expectations

Students may possess personal electronic devices while on campus; however, all devices must remain:

- Powered off or in silent mode;
- Stored out of sight in a backpack or other designated location; and
- Not used during instructional time unless expressly authorized by a teacher or school administrator.

Students may not use personal electronic devices during:

- Classroom instruction;
- Recess or Mealtime (breakfast; lunch, snack);
- Assemblies;
- School-wide activities;
- Testing sessions;
- After School activities, Including Think Together, clubs, tutoring; or
- Any other time designated by school personnel.

Permitted Use

Use of personal electronic devices may be permitted when:

1. Authorized by a teacher for an instructional purpose;
2. Authorized by a school administrator;



3. Necessary to address a documented medical need;
4. Required pursuant to a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan;
5. Needed during an emergency or in response to a perceived threat of danger; or
6. Otherwise required by law.

Parent Communication

Parents and guardians who need to contact their child during the school day should do so through the PUENTE Charter School main office. Likewise, students who need to communicate with a parent or guardian during the school day should seek permission from school staff and use designated school communication channels.

Prohibited Uses

Students shall not use personal electronic devices to:

- Record, photograph, or videotape any student, staff member, or school activity without permission;
- Engage in bullying, harassment, intimidation, or cyberbullying;
- Access inappropriate content;
- Cheat or facilitate academic dishonesty;
- Disrupt the educational environment; or
- Violate any school policy or applicable law.

Violations and Progressive Consequences

The school will address violations through progressive interventions designed to promote responsibility and positive behavior.

First Violation

- Verbal reminder and redirection.

Second Violation

- Device confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day.

Third Violation

- Device confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian.

Repeated Violations

- Parent conference and development of a behavior support plan.
- Additional disciplinary action consistent with the Student Discipline Policy may be imposed when appropriate.

**Confiscated Devices**

PUENTE Charter School staff may temporarily confiscate devices used in violation of this policy. The school is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of personal electronic devices brought to campus.

Administration of Policy

The PUENTE Charter School Principal or designee shall implement procedures necessary to enforce this policy and may establish reasonable campus-specific expectations consistent with this policy.