



## RISE CHARTER SCHOOL

### Policy 3265: Student Owned Electronic Communications Devices

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: June 14, 2021

Last Revised Date: February 23, 2026

Last Reviewed Date: December 15, 2025

The Board adopts this policy to place controls on the use of student-owned electronic devices at school. There has been a rising concern that spending too much time on social media or using cell phones may be detrimental to students' physical and mental health. The Board's priority is that all students are engaged in learning without distraction.

By placing limits on the permissible use of such electronic devices, the Board intends to:

1. Adopt policy in alignment with State Department of Education guidance on cell phones;
2. Promote student safety;
3. Support staff in maintaining an environment that encourages learning;
4. Reduce distractions in the learning environment;
5. Improve academic focus;
6. Promote responsible technology use;
7. Prevent cyberbullying; and
8. Mitigate the privacy concerns posed by personal electronic devices.

This policy shall apply to any electronic device not issued by RISE Charter School that is capable of accessing the internet or sending an electronic message to another device, such as smart phones, other cell phones, tablets, ear pods, laptops, e-readers, and smart watches, **smart glasses, wearable AI devices, and other wearable electronic devices.**

### Smart Watches

All smart watches must be powered off during school hours. Use of a smart watch during school hours is permitted only for documented medical purposes supported by a physician's note and, when applicable, documented in a student's 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP). When approved for medical use, the smart watch may be used solely for the documented medical purpose, and all non-medical applications, features, and functions must be disabled during school hours.

## **Smart Glasses (Wearable Recording Devices)**

Student-owned smart glasses or other wearable electronic devices equipped with cameras, microphones, internet connectivity, artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, or the ability to record, transmit, or receive audio, video, images, or other electronic communications (including, but not limited to, Meta Ray-Ban Smart Glasses and similar devices) are prohibited on school property, during the school day, and at all school-sponsored activities and events.

Because these devices can record or transmit audio, video, or images without being readily apparent to others, they present significant privacy, safety, and security concerns for students and staff. Such devices shall not be worn, possessed, or used during the school day or at any school-sponsored activity unless specifically authorized in advance by the Executive Director or designee for an educational purpose or as a documented accommodation under a student's Section 504 Plan or Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Students found in possession of prohibited smart glasses or similar wearable recording devices shall surrender the device upon request by school staff and may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with this policy.

### **Restrictions on Time and Location of Use**

Students are prohibited from using cell phones in the following times and places:

1. During class time;
2. During passing periods;
3. In bathrooms, locker rooms, or changing rooms; and
4. School Sponsored Trips

Cell phones brought to school must be always kept out of sight at all times. Students are only permitted to use cell phones in the following times and places:

1. Before and after the school day;
2. At school activities outside of school hours with teacher permission (not including fieldtrips)

Any use of an electronic device required by a student's 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) shall be permitted regardless of whether it would otherwise violate this policy.

When a smart watch is approved for use under a student's 504 Plan or IEP for medical purposes, the device shall be limited to medical use only. All non-medical applications, features, and functions must be disabled during school hours.

Students may use a personal electronic device in the case of an emergency to contact help. In this policy, an emergency is an event that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of any person or a risk of damage to property. If a student needs to use a personal electronic device in such an emergency, they should ensure they are in as safe a location as is feasible.

If a student's parent/guardian or their designee needs to contact a student in the case of an emergency at a time when student cell phone use is not permitted, the parent/guardian or designee should call the school office and ask staff to relay the message or bring the student to the office to speak with the parent/guardian or designee by phone or in-person.

### **Containment of Devices**

When use of personal electronic devices is not permitted, such devices must be stored and kept out of sight during the school day.

Except as expressly permitted for documented medical purposes under a student's 504 Plan or IEP, smart watches are included as electronic devices and must be stored out of sight in accordance with this policy during the school day.

The Executive Director or Principal may set further procedures and rules to ensure this policy is followed. The School may also make use of technology-based approaches, such as monitoring or blocking internet access.

Students are responsible for safeguarding devices they bring to school. The School shall not be responsible for loss, theft, damages, or destruction of student owned devices brought onto school property.

### **Use of Devices**

Any use of personal electronic devices at school or at school events shall comply with Procedure 3270P Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks. Student-owned electronic devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, including, but not limited to, posing a threat to academic integrity or violating confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual.

Access to the devices is a privilege and not a right. Each student will be required to follow the Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks Policy and the Internet Access Conduct Agreement.

Students may only access the internet through RISE Charter School's filtered connection, regardless of whether they are using their personal device or a School-issued device. School staff will not provide software or technical assistance for student-owned devices.

Because power cords stretched out in classrooms become a safety issue both for the students and devices, charging the device with such a cord in any classroom, hallway, or any other location that may be a safety concern may be prohibited.

The use of cameras, **microphones, or recording features** in any type of electronic device, **including smart glasses and other wearable devices**, is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, and classrooms, **or any location where an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy** (unless a certified RISE Charter School employee authorizes the student to do otherwise). ~~authorizes the student to do otherwise. Where students are allowed to use electronic devices, they are required to obtain permission before taking a photograph or video of any individual. Students must also obtain permission from any individual appearing in a photograph or video prior to posting on any social networking site or other internet site.~~ **Students may not record, livestream, photograph, or otherwise capture audio or video of another individual without authorization from school personnel and the consent of the individual being recorded, except as otherwise permitted by law.**

Students found to be using any electronic communications device to in any way send or receive personal messages, data, or information that would contribute to or constitute cheating on any student assessment, project, or assignment shall be subject to discipline.

Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school and classroom teacher concerning appropriate use of personal electronic devices.

### **Disciplinary Action**

Students violating the provisions of this policy are subject to disciplinary action, which may include losing the privilege of bringing the device onto school property, detention, and/or confiscation of the device until it is retrieved by the student's parent/guardian. If a student or a parent/guardian wishes to appeal such disciplinary action, they can do so by submitting a written request for appeal to the building principal within five school days. If the decision being appealed was made by the building principal, the appeal may instead be made to the Executive Director.

Violation of this policy may also result in suspension or expulsion, as described in Policy 3340 – Corrective Actions and Punishment, if appropriate.

### **3265-4 Implementation & Review of Policy**

The Board directs the Executive Director or their designee to inform staff, students, and parents/guardians about this policy and how it will be implemented. The Board also directs the Executive Director or their designee to develop practices that reinforce the importance of and ways of addressing:

1. Digital literacy lessons;

2. The effects of cyberbullying;
3. Privacy concerns; and
4. Online disinformation.

**The Executive Director shall report to the Board each year about the effectiveness of this policy and shall recommend changes to it as needed.**

**Cross References:**

3270P Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks 3340 & 3340P Corrective Actions and Punishment

**Legal References:**

Executive Order 2024-11 Phone Free Learning Act

**Other References:**

Policy Checklist for LEAs, Idaho Department of Education, <https://sde.idaho.gov/topics/cell-phone-policy/>

**Policy History:**

**Adopted on: June 14, 2021**

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