



Radiant STEM Academy Communication Devices Policy

Effective Date

This policy takes effect beginning **August 2025**, in compliance with **House Bill 1481**.

Purpose

Radiant STEM Academy is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and distraction-free learning environment where students can focus on academic and personal growth. In compliance with **Texas House Bill 1481 (HB 1481)**, this policy establishes clear expectations regarding the possession and use of personal communication devices on school property during the instructional day (this includes any school related events, field trips, competitions, etc. that is affiliated with school).

Definition of Personal Communication Devices

Personal communication devices include but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches
- Tablets
- Bluetooth devices or earbuds
- Laptops (non-school issued)
- Pagers
- Two-way radios or any device capable of sending/receiving messages or calls

Policy Statement

Students are prohibited from using personal communication devices on school property during the instructional day, including during class time, morning assembly, salah time, passing periods, lunch, recess, school events, field trips, and while on school transportation. Devices must remain powered off or silenced and stored at the office, lockers, or designated storage areas approved by the principal throughout the school day.

School-issued devices for instructional purposes are not subject to this restriction.

Exemptions

The following exceptions are permitted:

- **Medical Need:** Students with a documented medical requirement, supported by a **current doctor's note on file with the school nurse**, are authorized to possess and use personal communication devices as necessary for their condition.



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- **IEP or 504 Plan:** Students whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan specifies the use of a personal device during the school day.
- **Emergency Situations:** School administration may authorize temporary use of devices in emergency circumstances.

Storage Requirements

- Personal devices must be kept **powered off or on silent** mode.
- Devices need to be left at home. If a device must be brought to campus, it must be stored at the office, lockers, or designated storage areas approved by the principal from arrival until dismissal.
- Devices may not be accessed during restroom breaks, hallway transitions, lunch, salah time, or recess.

Consequences of Violating Policy

Offense	Action
First Offense	Device confiscated; returned at end of school day. Parent notified.
Second Offense	Device confiscated; must be picked up by parent/guardian from the front office. Written warning issued. \$20 fine to retrieve the device.
Third Offense	Device confiscated; parent conference required. Disciplinary action assigned (e.g., detention or loss of privileges). \$40 fine retrieve the device.
Fourth and Subsequent Offenses	Device confiscated; referral to school administration for further disciplinary consequences including possible suspension. \$60 fine to retrieve the device.
Unclaimed Devices	Devices not claimed within 90 days of confiscation may be disposed of in accordance with school policy.

Benefits of This Policy

- Protects students' social and emotional well-being by limiting unnecessary digital engagement during school hours
- Creates a safer school environment, minimizing opportunities for inappropriate communication and misuse of technology.
- Reduction in cyberbullying and inappropriate online behavior during school hours



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- Improved focus and engagement in learning activities
- Increased social interaction and collaboration
- Fewer distractions and reduced peer conflicts
- Stronger academic performance and test readiness
- Enhanced classroom management and teacher-student rapport

Emergency Contact Procedures

In case of an emergency, parents/guardians should contact the school office directly. Students will be notified promptly through appropriate school channels.

Immediate Withdrawal

Certain infractions will result in students' immediate withdrawal from Radiant STEM Academy.

- Posting harmful material against students and/or any members of the school community
- Making threats against the school community
- Interference, disruption or obstruction of the educational environment, academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or violation of intellectual property laws, accessing files or sites not relevant to the curriculum, sending or displaying offensive messages, pictures, or language (e.g. sexting or use in a manner that is profane, indecent, obscene, or vulgar), cyberbullying, harassing, intimidating, coercing, threatening, or attacking others, making public private information without consent, engaging in commercial activities, damaging computers, networks, or other electronic devices, intentionally wasting network resources

Implementation & Communication

This policy will be:

- **Included in the Radiant STEM Academy Code of Conduct Handbook.**
- **Shared with families via email and the school website** before the start of the 2025–2026 school year.
- **Reviewed with students during orientation** and homeroom at the beginning of the school year.
- **Reviewed annually and updated as necessary** to comply with state law and school safety requirements.