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PRESS RELEASE
June 26, 2024

Digital Device Restrictions - September 2024

At Monday night's Board of Education meeting, Trustees updated their Digital Technology, Consent and Privacy Policy. As part of the revision, the District will align with [the Ministry of Education and Child Care requirements](#) for cell phones and personal digital devices for the 2024-25 school year.

The Ministry requires all school districts to have policies and regulations in their Codes of Conduct by September 2024, limiting the use of cell phones and other personal digital devices connected to the internet during the school day.

According to the Ministry media release, "Research shows that frequent cellphone interruption in the classroom, social media platforms with addictive algorithms and predators who seek to exploit young people all present significant risks to young people. Studies have found that children's mental health and physical safety can suffer as a result of body-image distortion, cyberbullying, images shared without consent and disturbing instances of sextortion."

The updated restrictions in SD91 include:

- **Elementary schools** - Personal digital devices must be powered off and safely stored during the entire school day
 - Students in elementary schools may only use personal digital devices during the school day for instructional purposes and to promote digital literacy, and only with the permission and direct supervision of a teacher or other staff member.
- **Secondary schools** - Personal digital devices must be powered off and safely stored away during instructional time unless used for instructional purposes with the permission and direct supervision of a teacher or other staff member.
 - Secondary students may use personal digital devices during the school day outside of instructional time.

The District's policy acknowledges the benefits of personal digital devices for students who rely on them for translation services, medical support, health needs, adaptations for Individual Education Plans and accessibility. Parents and caregivers would consult with their local school in the fall for more information.

As is current practice, the District is not responsible for lost, missing or damaged personal digital devices that students choose to bring to school.

Full details: [Policy 604.1](#) & [Regulation 604.1](#)