



Paul Cuffee School Policy on the Use of Personal Electronic Devices

Purpose and policy: In order to reduce distractions, maintain an environment focused on learning and protect the privacy and safety of students and staff, students are prohibited from the use of personal electronic devices on school grounds and during school-sponsored activities.

Definitions: For the purposes of this policy, a “personal electronic device” means a smartphone, mobile phone, tablet, computer, smartwatch, or other electronic device not owned or provided to a student by the Paul Cuffee School that is capable of communication through the internet or a wireless network.

Prohibition on use or access to personal electronic devices: Students are prohibited from physically accessing personal electronic devices during the school day as defined by the department of education and the commission of elementary and secondary education pursuant to R.I.G.L. §§ 16-2-2 and 16-2-9 and any regulations promulgated thereunder including, but not limited to, 200-RICR-20-05-1.

Exemptions: Student personal devices used to provide access to assistive technology necessary to comply with individualized student 504 plans, individualized education plans (IEP), medical needs such as glucose monitoring, and/or a plan to support emergent multilingual learners (MLL) students with appropriate language access programs and services to ensure the provision of appropriate, meaningful public education are exempt from this policy. Any such exemptions shall be written into the student’s identified plan and approved by the appropriate team or coordinator. Students provided an exception to this policy shall not be segregated from students without such exception. Exceptions shall also be made in the event of an emergency.