**6.20 Wireless Communication Devices**

6.20.1 Definitions

1. Instructional Day –
* When school is open and in session;
* During class time, lunch, transitions between classes, and any non-instructional periods;
* Any time that students are required to store their Wireless Communication Devices by the Code of Conduct or other school rules; or
* Any time students are instructed to store their devices by school staff.
1. Wireless Communication Devices – A “Wireless Communication Device” shall be any portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device including, without limitation:
* a cellular telephone;
* a tablet computer;
* a laptop computer;
* a pager;
* a gaming device;
* a smart watch;
* earphones of any type; and
* headphones of any type.

6.20.2 Possession of Wireless Communication Devices – Students are allowed to bring – but not use or operate – Wireless Communication Devices into school buildings and onto school grounds, subject to the limitations in sections 6.20.3 and 6.20.4, below. The Board is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any wireless communication device brought onto campus.

6.20.3 Storage of Devices – During the Instructional Day, students who possess a Wireless Communication Device on any Board campus or in any Board school must turn the Wireless Communication Device off and store the Wireless Communication Device off their person in a locker, car, or other location as authorized by the Superintendent or designee. This possession is subject to the exceptions listed in 6.20.4.

6.20.4 Prohibition on Use and Exceptions – Students cannot use, operate, or possess a Wireless Communication Device during the Instructional Day except under the following limited circumstances:

* The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is specifically included in the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or an Individualized Health Plan;
* The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is for educational or learning purposes under the supervision of school personnel; and
* The use, operation, and/or possession occurs during an emergency threatening the life or safety of the student or another person.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop additional guidelines for implementation of these exceptions. All such guidelines will be communicated to students, parents/guardians, and teachers through typical mechanisms such as the Code of Conduct or Student Parent Information Guide.

6.20.5 Searches – School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any Wireless Communication Device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of law, Board policy, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such reading, examination, or inspection shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.

6.20.6 Disciplinary Action – Any violations of this policy can result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

6.20.7 Additional Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop any additional rules necessary to carry out this policy including the procedures that would require students to store Wireless Communication Devices in specific locations within a given school.

[Reference: Ala. Act 2025-386]