

**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: September 4, 2024
TO: Education Committee
FROM: Assistant Superintendents, Don Balcombe and Jacquie Poulin
SUBJECT: Restriction of Digital Devices

Background

On January 26, 2024, Premier David Eby and Minister Rachna Singh announced that there would be cell phone restrictions in the up-coming school year as one of three important actions to keep kids and young people safe.

On April 12, 2024, Deputy Minister Zacharuk informed school superintendents of the amended Ministerial Order for Code of Conduct and the new requirement for districts to ensure that Codes of Conduct address the following matters:

- restrictions on the use of personal digital devices at school, including during hours of instruction;
- use of personal digital devices for instructional purposes and digital literacy;
- use of personal digital devices that is appropriate to a student's age and developmental stage;
- accessibility and accommodation needs;
- medical and health needs;
- equity to support learning outcomes

On May 8, 2024, our district Administrative Procedure (AP-344 Code of Conduct) was amended to include language requiring school Codes of Conduct to have "Statements restricting the use of personal digital devices at school for the purpose of promoting online safety and focused learning environments".

Discussion

Research suggests that restricting the use of personal digital devices at school leads to improved student wellness and academic focus. The use of personal digital devices during instructional time, under the direction of the teacher, should be limited to specific instructional purposes and digital literacy, appropriate to the student's age and developmental stage.

Increasing academic focus across the district will help us in our efforts to meet the Board's goal of student success and the objective of increasing graduation rates.

We have sent information to families regarding the restrictions of personal digital devices and schools are prepared to work with students to help them increase academic focus and improve wellness.

Appendix A: August 23, 2024, letter to Caregivers
Appendix B: August 30, 2024, letter to Caregivers