



Letter from the Office of the
Superintendent

August 30, 2024

Dear caregivers,

As Premier David Eby shared this week, all schools in BC will have restrictions on personal digital devices when classes resume next week.

In May, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools adopted a policy to comply with the province's requirement for all public schools in BC to have language restricting personal digital devices use in schools.

It is easier for students to focus on school without distractions from cell phones and other personal digital devices. Helping all our learners manage how they use their digital devices at school can help everyone have a better learning experience.

Our staff is committed to a collaborative approach to helping students understand the new rules around personal digital devices in classrooms when they return to classes next week.

Elementary

Personal digital devices are now restricted throughout the instructional day (start of day bell to dismissal bell.) This includes class time, recess, and lunch. For some of our schools, this may include supervision time on school grounds before the welcome bell. Devices must be turned off or placed on airplane mode and kept in a backpack or school bag for the entire school day.

Secondary

In secondary schools, personal digital devices must be turned off or placed on airplane mode before students enter the classroom and during instructional time. Personal digital devices are not permitted for use during class/instructional time unless an educator has given permission.

In all schools, there will be consideration given to:

- use of personal digital devices for appropriate educational purposes;
- accessibility and accommodation needs;
- medical and health needs;
- equity to support learning environments.

Where a specific, individual, requirement is identified, arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis.

As a caregiver, we would appreciate your support to share this information with your child and encourage them to work with their teachers in a positive way to follow the restrictions on personal digital devices in schools next week.

The district is committed to providing updates and information regarding digital devices in schools as available. For more information visit www.gov.bc.ca/phonesandschools

Kind regards,



Laura Tait
Interim Superintendent
Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools

Questions and Answers

Is it okay to send my child to school with a personal digital device (cellphone) to school next week?

Cellphones do not need to be left at home. However, before heading to school, students should be aware there will be restrictions on using their phones for non-educational purposes.

When are students NOT allowed to use their personal digital devices?

For elementary students, from the start of day bell to dismissal bell. This includes class time, recess, and lunch. For some schools, this may include supervised time before the start of day bell. Between these bells, all personal digital devices must be turned off or placed on airplane mode and kept in a backpack or school bag entire school day.

In secondary schools, personal digital devices must be turned off or placed on airplane mode before students enter the classroom and during instructional time. Personal digital devices are not permitted for use during class/instructional time unless an educator has given permission.

We kindly ask everyone to join us in encouraging students to develop digital literacy skills and use technology solely for educational purposes while at school.

What about on school buses?

Devices will be allowed on school buses for students commuting between school and home.

What will happen if my child is using their cellphone during instructional time?

Staff will address students struggling with the cellphone restrictions as they would other issues, with kindness and compassion. The goal is to help students reduce their screentime and improve their wellness.

Where can I find more information?

More information is available at www.gov.bc.ca/phonesandschools