



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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LCJVS Implements Student Cell Phone Restriction Policy Effective School Year 2024-25

Oberlin, OH – At Lorain County School Joint Vocational School (LCJVS), it is our mission to create and sustain a welcoming, safe, and academically enriched environment for students, while maintaining the best conditions for staff to support students. Student cell phone use at school has been identified as a tremendous detriment to meeting that goal. Cell phones are designed to capture users’ attention through alerts, social media, and instant communication – leading to distractions – and causing interruption to the students’ ability to focus. These variables create a lasting, negative impact on school culture, social interaction, and academic learning progress. *To align and maintain compliance with [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce’s Cell Phone in Schools: Model Policy](#), LCJVS has implemented a district-wide limited student cell phone usage policy.*

Since school year 2016-2017, digital learning devices have been made accessible to all students – every student is provided with an Apple iPad or some type of digital learning tool. Effective August 26, 2024, LCJVS prohibits the use of student cell phones in the classroom and academic learning spaces, including the nurse’s office, student services, and administrative offices (and activities that require a pass, E.g., restroom or office visit). Students will use cell phone lockers in these designated areas; students will place their phone in the locker upon entering the academic space and will have access to their phone when the period concludes – the student will remove their phone from the locker. Student cell phone usage will be made available during transitional periods throughout the day.

“We want every student positioned for success at LCJVS, and that starts with ensuring every student is safe and free from distractions in our learning spaces. As educators, it is our responsibility to make sure every student has the tools necessary to – learn, grow, and focus – our classrooms are the learning labs that accelerate critical thinking and technical innovations,” said Superintendent, Dr. Glenn Faircloth. The district will continue to leverage its mass-communications system – Instant Connect – parents/guardians will receive emergency communication via email, text, and automated message. “We understand this is a major change for both students and families, and we encourage our families to be proactive with cocurricular and after school activities – please speak with your child prior to the start of school. This operational decision aligns with Ohio Department of Education’s mandate. If parents/guardians need to speak with their child immediately for emergency purposes, students are accessible by calling the school’s administrative office. We want to start the new school year with less distractions and more social interactions and student successes.” – Ms. Tina Peltó, LC JVS Principal

[FAQs Related to the Student Restriction Cell Phone Policy Below**](#)**

LCJVS No Cell Phone Policy FAQs and Factsheet

1. Why is LCJVS implementing this policy?

We are implementing this policy in alignment with the new mandate by the [Department of Education and Workforce's "Cell Phones in School: Model Policy,"](#) which emphasizes the importance of minimizing distractions and fostering a focused learning environment. The policy is designed to enhance academic performance by reducing interruptions and ensuring that students are fully engaged in their educational activities. Additionally, it supports the development of critical skills such as attention and effective communication, which are essential for success in both academic and future professional settings.

2. When will students not have access to their phones?

Students will not have access to their phones in classrooms, administrative offices, central offices, labs, cocurricular activities, or during bathroom breaks. To support this policy, students will place their phones in lock boxes located in the classroom at the start of each period and retrieve them at the end of the period. This system helps maintain a focused and distraction-free environment while providing designated times for phone use throughout the day.

3. When will students have access to their phones?

Students will have designated times to access their phones throughout the day, including during transitional periods (hallways), lunch breaks, and study hall. This approach balances the need for connectivity with our commitment to minimizing classroom distractions. We believe this will allow students to stay connected while ensuring that their primary focus remains on their educational experience.

4. What happens during a school emergency?

During a school emergency, students will not have access to their phones. The school will disseminate critical information through our mass-communication system, "Instant Connect," with updates sent via text, email, and automated messages to parents and caregivers. For safety reasons, it is not advisable for parents or caregivers to be on school premises during an emergency; instead, we will ensure you receive timely and accurate information through our communication channels.

Parents/Caregivers are automatically enrolled in the school's mass-communications system. If you are not receiving school-wide communications, please contact the school's administrative offices.

5. What if I need to speak with my child(ren) immediately?

If you need to speak to your child(ren) immediately, please contact the school office. Our staff will facilitate communication with your child(ren) as promptly as possible while ensuring minimal disruption to the learning environment. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in using this process to maintain a focused and effective educational setting.