



PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICE USE IN SCHOOLS

Minister Approval:

Effective Date: August 19, 2026

General Information

Under the *Education Act*, the Minister must establish and communicate goals and objectives for the Yukon education system.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction on the use of personal mobile devices in schools and ensure that Yukon schools establish and communicate a process to clearly outline the expectations.

Definitions

'Department of Education' includes central administration staff and all school-based staff. The department is a school authority that oversees Yukon Education schools.

'Digital literacy' the interest, attitude and ability of individuals to appropriately use digital technology and communication tools that may include accessing, managing, integrating, analyzing and evaluating information, constructing new knowledge, creating and communicating with others.

'Family' means the person(s) responsible for student(s) enrolled in K-12 public education. This typically refers to the biological parents, the adoptive parents by custom or otherwise, and/or otherwise the persons legally entitled to custody, or the persons who usually have primary responsibility for the care of a child. This may or may not be the biological parent of the child, and could include grandparents, foster parents, legal guardian, etc.

'Personal mobile device' means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone, laptop, smart watch or a tablet.

'School' means any school under the jurisdiction of the Minister including those operated by a School Board, virtual schools and student residences.

'School administration' means the school principal, vice principal and or other staff acting in the role of principal or vice principal.

'School board' means a board of trustees that operates the public schools within its designated area and is governed by its publicly elected or appointed board members, who are responsible for overseeing the planning and operation of the schools.



'School council' means a council made up of publicly elected or appointed members of the school community that advises schools.

'Student' means a person enrolled in a public K-12 educational program in the Yukon. For the purpose of this policy, 'student' also includes a 'visiting student'. For example, a non-Yukon resident student visiting any school under the jurisdiction of the Minister.

Policy Statement

The Department of Education is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and safe learning environment conducive to learning and free from unnecessary distractions. This policy aims to reduce classroom distractions associated with the use of personal mobile devices and is intended to provide direction and clarification related to the use of devices in schools.

Standards

To maintain focused and engaging learning environments, schools must restrict personal mobile device use:

- within learning environments for the duration of the school day in elementary schools
 - if devices are brought to school, they must be given to the teacher for the duration of the school day
- during hours of learning in secondary schools
 - devices must be stored in backpacks, lockers or a designated area determined by administration during class
- these same expectations apply in K-12 schools for students in kindergarten to grade 7 and grades 8-12

Exceptions to these restrictions include:

- use of personal mobile devices for instructional purposes and digital literacy as per administrator and educator discretion
- use of personal mobile devices for learning purposes related to inclusive education
- use of personal mobile devices for medical and health needs

The Department of education will support schools to provide information to school staff and the school community on:

- approach to implementation with expectations for students, educators, and administrators
- process to ensure families and students can get in touch if needed, including in an emergency



Roles and Responsibilities

Department of Education

- Provide information and guidance to schools, school councils, school boards, and their community committees as appropriate, on the use of personal mobile devices in schools.
- Provide templates to school administration to work with the school community to develop implementation plans with expectations for students, educators and administrators.

School administration

- Work with the school community to develop implementation plans on personal mobile device use in schools that include expectations for students, educators and administrators.
- Ensure information on the policy is available on the school's website along with day-to-day and emergency family-student contact procedures.
- Advise school staff on which students may use personal mobile devices in school for learning or medical needs.

School-based staff

- Ensure that the requirements of the school guidelines are known and adhered to in Yukon schools, learning environments and during school-related activities.

School boards

- Support the efforts of school staff in maintaining an inclusive and safe learning environment conducive to learning and free from unnecessary distractions. This could be done in collaboration with community committees or equivalent.

School Councils/Community Committees (when operating under School Boards)

- Support administration in communicating information about the policy and implementation of restrictions in schools.
- Support the efforts of school staff in maintaining an inclusive and safe learning environment conducive to learning and free from unnecessary distractions.

Students and families

- Support the efforts of school staff in maintaining an inclusive and safe learning environment conducive to learning and free from unnecessary distractions.

Application

This policy applies to all schools in the Yukon.



Exceptional Circumstances

In situations where the individual circumstances of a case are such that the provisions of this policy cannot be applied or to do so would result in an unfair or an unintended result, a decision to allow a student to use a personal mobile device at school or during instructional time may be based on the individual merits and facts of the situation. Such a decision will be considered for that specific case only and will not be precedent setting.

Effective Date

August 19, 2026

Periodic Review

This policy will be reviewed within two years of the effective date. It will be reviewed every five years thereafter.

Legislative and Policy Resources

Education Act s. 168(a)(d)(g), s. 169(d), 186(1)(a)(n)

Department of Education Policy "Safe and Caring Schools Policy"

Department of Education Technology Use Guidelines – Grades 4–12

Department of Education Technology Use Guidelines – Kindergarten to Grade 3

History

Department of Education Policy 'Personal Mobile Device Use in Schools Policy', effective August 19, 2026.