

Hope Academy of West Michigan Policy – Wireless Communication Devices

- **Rationale:** To maximize student focus, reduce social media distractions, and improve mental health, Hope Academy of West Michigan prohibits the use of personal wireless communication devices (WCDs) during instructional time.
- **Definition:** A WCD is any device capable of, but not limited to, text messaging, voice communication, entertainment, navigation, accessing the internet, sending/receiving photos/videos, or producing email (e.g., smartphones, smartwatches, tablets).
- **Instructional Time Restriction (Bell-to-Bell/Classroom):**
 - Students may not use, display, or have activated WCDs during instructional time.
 - Devices must be turned off/silenced and stored in [lockers/backpacks/designated storage areas] from the start of the first bell to the final dismissal bell.
- **Exceptions:**
 - **Emergency Situations:** Per [District Name]'s Emergency Operations Plan, students may use devices during an emergency if it does not violate safety protocols or hinder first responders.
 - **Medical/Academic Needs:** Devices necessary for health reasons (e.g., glucose monitors), IEP/504 accommodations, or specifically permitted by a teacher for a lesson.
 - **Non-Instructional Time:** Students may use devices during lunch, recess, or passing time, provided it is not disruptive.
- **Violations/Enforcement:**
 - *First Offense:* Device confiscated, returned to student at the end of the day, parent/guardian notified.
 - *Second Offense:* Device confiscated, parent/guardian must pick up the device.
 - *Third Offense:* Student subject to further disciplinary action.

- **"Dumb Phone" Allowance:** Students may possess basic, non-internet-capable phones used only for calling or texting.
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