



Learner Personal Electronic Device Board Policy

Board Approved: June 17, 2026

Mission and Vision

Empower Generations's mission is for learners to be "Free to Think. Inspired to Lead". The school strives to be a beacon of innovation and creativity, fostering a culture of curiosity and leadership. Our commitment to unlocking the potential of our learners and the communities we serve is unwavering. We believe that by empowering people to become lifelong learners, empathetic citizens, authentic individuals, and design thinkers, we can create a better future for all. This includes the thoughtful and responsible integration of technology in our educational approach.

Purpose of Policy

This policy aligns with California's statewide effort to restrict learners' personal device use in schools, acknowledging the growing evidence of harm to their mental health and well-being, and the established correlation between personal device addiction and negative impacts on learning and academic performance. By implementing this policy, Empower Generations aims to reduce digital distractions within the classroom and across the campus, thereby fostering an environment where learners can better focus on their academic pursuits and social development. Ultimately, this initiative is a proactive step towards addressing the mental health issues associated with excessive personal device usage and promoting a healthier, more focused learning experience for all learners.

Definitions

Learner Personal Electronic Device: Refers to cell phones, smartphones, and other personal electronic devices (such as smartwatches, meta-glasses, tablets, handheld gaming consoles, and similar technologies) that are the personal property of the learner or in their possession and are not issued by the school for specific educational purposes. These devices typically possess communication, internet access, and/or application capabilities.

Expectations

Empower Generations values instructional technology as one way of enhancing our mission to teach the skills, knowledge, and behaviors learners will need as responsible citizens in the global community. The school provides appropriate technology to support instructional objectives, as technology is an avenue to learn collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking in a variety of ways throughout the school day.

Because adjustments may need to be made annually, the school shall develop acceptable use procedures for personal electronic device usage. These procedures shall be outlined in the school's Family Guidebook. The school shall provide resources and support for learners not adhering to the policy.

Guidelines for Personal Device Use on Campus

The use of personal electronic devices on campus by learners and their parents/guardians is governed by the Empower Generations Family Guidebook, California Education Code, the Acceptable Use Policy, and all relevant Board Policies.

In accordance with Education Code Section 48901.7, personal device usage is permitted on campus under specific circumstances:

- In the case of an emergency or in response to perceived threat of danger.
- When a teacher or administrator grants permission.
- When a licensed physician and surgeon determines it is necessary for health or well-being.
- When required in a learner's individualized education program.

When using a personal device on campus:

- Approved devices must be in silent mode/do not disturb while on campus, unless otherwise allowed by a school employee.
- Devices may not be used to cheat on assignments, quizzes, or tests.
- During instructional time, devices must only be used for instructional purposes as permitted by school employees.
- No learner shall use an electronic signaling device with camera, video or voice recording function in a way or under circumstances which may infringe upon the privacy of others.
- Learners and parents/guardians should be aware that devices are subject to confiscation by school staff if the learner is not adhering to the procedures outlined in the Family Guidebook, and the parent/guardian will be notified.

- Each learner is responsible for their own device and should use it responsibly and appropriately. Empower Generations takes no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged devices, including lost or corrupted data on those devices.

Privacy

A learner's personal electronic device may be searched by a school official only when there is a reasonable belief, in good faith, that an emergency exists involving an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the learner or others, and that accessing information on the device is necessary to mitigate the threat.

Digital Citizenship

Digital citizenship is a proactive and essential component of Empower Generations's educational program, with the core purpose of equipping learners with the vital skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the online world responsibly, ethically, and safely. Recognizing the pervasive nature of technology in today's society, the school is committed to providing age-appropriate education to its learners on topics including responsible smartphone use, broader principles of digital citizenship, and a clear understanding of the potential impacts associated with excessive screen time. To further support learners and their families in fostering healthy digital habits and addressing any related challenges, the school will ensure that relevant resources and support mechanisms are readily available as needed.

Policy Updates

This policy will be reviewed and updated every five years to ensure its ongoing effectiveness and alignment with current best practices, evolving technologies, and relevant legislation.