# Wireless Communication Device Policy

**Purpose and Background.** The School is committed to preparing students not only for academic achievement but also for responsible digital citizenship. The School seeks to empower students to stay focused, build healthy habits, and make safe, responsible choices with their wireless devices—skills that extend beyond the classroom.

In July 2025, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted **House Bill 959 (HB 959/S.L. 2025-38)**, which, among other things, directs all public schools to implement procedures and guidelines limiting the use of wireless communication devices in public schools to minimize disruptions to the learning environment.

Based on HB 959 and the School's desire to limit disruption, this policy is established to help students thrive in a safe, respectful, and focused school environment.

**Definition.** A Wireless Communication Device ("WCD" or "Wireless Devices") includes, without limitation, cell phones, tablet computers, paging devices, two-way radios, gaming devices, headphones, earbuds, smartwatches, and any other device by which wireless communications may occur.

**General Restriction (During School).** Students must keep their Wireless Devices secured in their lockers (or book bags if lockers are not available) during the school day from 7:15 AM to dismissal. This covers the entire school day, including classroom time, hallway transitions, lunch and breaks, gym, extracurricular periods, and school activities.

**Before-school.** Students who arrive early or remain in the common area before being dismissed to their lockers or classes must keep all Wireless Devices turned off and stored in their bookbags, purses, or other storage cases – not on their person. Device use is not permitted during this time unless subject to an exception.

**Exceptions.** Exceptions to the restrictions include:

- **Instruction/Emergencies.** Exceptions may be made for certain Electronic Devices approved by the school for instructional purposes or in an emergency situation, as long as their use is limited accordingly.
- **Elementary Level.** Elementary students who do not have lockers must keep their Electronic Devices turned off and stored in their bookbags.
- **Special Needs.** Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for students with special learning needs or disabilities.
- **Health Care.** Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for students with a documented medical condition (e.g., the use of monitoring or notification phone apps).

**Disciplinary Measures**

In the event a student does not comply with this policy, the School will follow a supportive, step-based approach focused on accountability and reflection.

**Administrative Discretion.** The School administration shall have reasonable discretion to apply this policy based on the unique circumstances of each situation.