

Administrative Procedures Manual	Administrative Procedure 350.3
	Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools
	APPROVED: December 2024
Page 1 of 2	AMENDED/REVIEWED: April 2024
LEGAL REFERENCE: ministerial order #014/2024	Section 11, 31, 33, 36, 53, 196, 197, 222 Education Act

Background

The Grande Prairie Public School Division believes that learning environments, free from distraction, provide the best opportunity for optimum learning for all students.

The use of personal mobile devices and social media in schools can be a distraction that can negatively impact students' learning, engagement and mental health. Establishing standards for the use of personal mobile devices and social media in schools helps establish spaces that are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and positive sense of self.

Ministerial Order (#014/2024) outlines the provincial standards for the use of personal mobile devices and social media in schools.

Definitions

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

Instructional time: Anytime where students are expected to be in a course.

Social Media: social media relevant to this procedure are software platforms that do not primarily support instruction and/or communication from schools to families. Social media that is deemed to not serve the needs of student learning and school communication.

Procedures

1. These guidelines and restrictions are minimum standards and schools have the authority to establish guidelines that meet or exceed these standards.
2. General Guidelines:
 - 2.1. Students may not use personal mobile devices during instructional time.
 - 2.2. Students may not access social media on school networks or on school devices.
 - 2.3. Schools will establish personal mobile device expectations for time outside of instructional time.
 - 2.4. Schools will establish where students are required to store their devices during instructional time.
 - 2.5. Notification of this policy will occur annually to students and families.

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3. Limited use exceptions:
 - 3.1. The Principal shall establish guidelines for the use of personal mobile devices for educational purposes or medical/health reasons.
 - 3.2. The Principal may establish guidelines that provide limited access to social media.

4. Supporting this practice:
 - 4.1. **Schools** will communicate expectations regarding personal mobile device use outside of instructional time and where devices can be stored during the school day.
 - 4.2. **Staff** support this practice by consistently applying this practice.
 - 4.3. **Parents** and caregivers support these expectations by using appropriate means to communicate with their children during the school day, including contacting the school.
 - 4.4. **Students** support this practice by following school expectations.

5. Schools are not responsible for any damage or loss of student personal devices. Students are responsible for properly securing their personal devices should they choose to bring them to school.

6. Behaviour Support
 - 6.1. When a student is in contravention of the school's code of conduct, a staff member will redirect the student to comply with the rules of the school.
 - 6.2. Schools will use progressive discipline to address contravention of the expectations.
 - 6.3. Contravention of the rules of the school will be resolved through the [Student Code of Conduct](#)