Emereau Bladen

At Emereau, we illuminate to embark; we investigate to discover; we innovate to transform; we cultivate to sustain; we celebrate to thrive - realizing the potential within us - we graduate. $E=i^3c^2g!$

*Illuminate Investigate Innovate Cultivate Celebrate Graduate*

# 📱 Wireless Communication Device Policy

**For K–8 Students**

**Effective Date:**

**Adopted by:** Emereau Bladen Charter School

**Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-407.33 (HB 959, 2025)**

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## 1. 🎯 Purpose

This policy ensures the responsible and developmentally appropriate use of wireless communication devices (WCDs), including cell phones, smartwatches, and similar personal technology, in accordance with North Carolina House Bill 959. The goal is to promote focused learning environments, student safety, and digital well-being.

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## 2. 📚 Policy Summary

| Grade Level | Policy During Instructional Time | Exceptions |
|---|---|---|
| K–8 | Devices must be **powered off and turned in** during class time. | With staff permission for health, IEP/504 plan, or teacher-led academic use. |

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## 3. ⛔ Prohibited Uses (All Grades)

Post Office Box 547
995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337
Phone: (910) 247-6595 Fax: (910) 247-6643

Students may **not use wireless devices**:

- During instructional time for personal texting, calling, or social media.
- To access TikTok or any similar platform (per HB 959 ban).
- To record others without permission.
- To engage in cyberbullying, harassment, or academic dishonesty.
- To bypass school filters or access inappropriate content.

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## 4. ✅ Approved Use (When Permitted)

When authorized by staff, student use may include:

- Accessing digital curriculum under teacher direction.
- Communicating with a parent/guardian in a **designated area** (e.g., front office).
- Health-related uses (e.g., blood glucose monitoring apps), as documented in student health plans.

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## 5. ⚠️ Consequences for Misuse

| Offense | Consequence |
|---|---|
| 1st | Verbal reminder; device returned at end of day |
| 2nd | Confiscation; parent/guardian must retrieve device |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3rd+ | Disciplinary referral; loss of device privilege; possible behavior plan update | | | | | |

*Any illegal or threatening behavior will be referred to the administration and, if needed, law enforcement.*

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## 6. 📦 Storage & Signage

- Teachers will designate **secure storage** or require that devices stay in backpacks.
- Clear signage will be posted in classrooms and hallways:
  **"Learning Time = Device-Free Time"**

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## 7. 👩‍🏫 Parent & Student Agreement

All families must sign the **Wireless Communication Policy Agreement** annually. The policy will be reviewed with students during the first week of school and revisited quarterly.

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## 8. 🔄 Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to:

- Evaluate effectiveness in reducing distractions and improving academic focus.
- Incorporate updates from state law and best practices in digital citizenship.

Board Approved/(Reviewed): Dan Aitken

Signature: Dan Aitken

Title: Board of Directors Chair

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Agent of Emereau Bladen Charter School

Signature: Polly S. Hancock

Title: Executive Director

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## 📌 Legal Reference

North Carolina General Statutes § 115C-407.33
Added via House Bill 959 (Session Law 2025-66)

> "Each public school unit shall adopt and implement a policy prohibiting student use of wireless communication devices during instructional time in the classroom, unless expressly authorized by a teacher or for medical or other health reasons."

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