



Policy	Student Cell Phone & Personal Technology Prohibition Policy
Number	Academic
Date	September 3, 2025
Laws, Regulations & Standards	NH RSA 189:1-a V

A. Policy Statement

In accordance with New Hampshire state law and Department of Education guidance, Mount Prospect Academy Inc. academic schools prohibit the use of personal technology devices during the instructional day. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Earbuds and headphones
- Smartwatches and wearable technology
- Portable gaming devices
- Tablets, music players, and any non–school-issued devices

This prohibition applies from the first bell signaling the start of instructional time until the dismissal bell at the end of the academic day.

B. Rationale

This policy is intended to:

- Maintain a safe, focused, and distraction-free learning environment.
- Protect student privacy and minimize risks related to inappropriate technology use, including cyberbullying and unauthorized recording.
- Support equitable access to learning and preserve the integrity of the school community.

C. Device Storage and Collection

1. Day Students

If devices must be brought for transportation purposes:

- Devices may be used only before arrival or after dismissal for transportation safety.
- Upon arrival, devices must be powered off and turned in at the designated front office collection area.
- Devices will be secured and returned at dismissal.

2. Residential Students

Residential students have no access to certain personal devices during both the academic and residential day, and only limited access to others. Regardless of access levels, all devices are stored in the residential building in accordance with residential rules.

This policy does not imply access to personal technology after academic programming.

3. Expectations During the School Day (All Students)

Residential and day students may not access, use, or carry personal devices in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, or during any school-related activity throughout the instructional day.

D. Accountability and Discipline

Failure to Turn In a Device: Staff will intervene if a student does not comply with check-in procedures.

- **First Infraction:** Verbal reminder, documentation, and parent/guardian notification.
- **Repeated Infractions:** Progressive discipline, which may include loss of privileges, parent/guardian meetings, or short-term suspension.
- **Chronic Noncompliance:** A formal meeting with parents/guardians, staff, and the student will be convened to develop a structured disciplinary support plan.

E. Liability Disclaimer

Mount Prospect Academy Inc. assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged personal technology devices, including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, music players, and handheld gaming systems.

Staff will not investigate missing or damaged personal devices.

Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to carefully consider whether their student should bring any device to school.

The safest option is for students to leave all personal devices at home.

F. Exceptions

Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for students with an IEP, 504 Plan, or documented medical need requiring assistive technology. Approved exceptions must:

- Be authorized in writing by school administration.
- Be used under the supervision of designated staff.
- Be restricted exclusively to the approved educational or medical purpose.

G. Communication of Policy

This policy will be:

- Included in the Student & Family Handbook.
- Reviewed with students annually and addressed at orientation.
- Communicated clearly to parents/guardians prior to the start of each school year.