

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TSUUT'INA NATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Tsuut'ina Nation
CC: Education Board of Trustees
Education Staff
DATE: January 31, 2025
RE: **Student Personal Mobile Devices Policy (PP.ED.2311 – 4.110)**

Dādánast'ádā,

On September 1, 2024, students in Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools and private Early Childhood Services programs were restricted from using personal mobile devices and accessing social media platforms. While the restrictions do not apply to First Nations' school boards, the Tsuut'ina Education Department's careful consideration of the implications and seeking community input to develop our approach and make an informed decision was beneficial.

After reviewing the responses to the *Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Tsuut'ina Education Schools* survey, the Tsuut'ina Education Board of Trustees has adopted the following policy:

Student Personal Mobile Devices

4.110. Personal Mobile Device (PMD): Any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet, such as a cellphone, tablet, laptop, gaming device or smartwatch. This also may include devices capable of communicating with a PMD (e.g. Bluetooth devices) such as headphones, earbuds, or smart speakers.

(a) Students may not use PMDs during instructional time, unless such use is approved by the classroom teacher to facilitate learning activities.

(b) Students may not access social media on school networks or on school devices.

(c) Student PMDs are valuable electronic devices. The security and storage of these items are the sole responsibility of the owner or user. Tsuut'ina Education assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of student PMDs.

(d) Notwithstanding, teachers or administrators must securely store student PMDs that are taken temporarily from students.

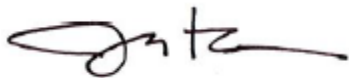
- (e) Parents are asked to refrain from contacting their child/student on their PMD during the school day to avoid unnecessary distractions.
- (f) Parents can contact the school office, which can facilitate contact with their child/student during the school day if needed.
- (g) Students who bring one or more PMDs to school must store the device(s) in their lockers, out of sight, in silent mode, or powered off during instructional time.
- (h) Administrators or teachers may permit the use of PMDs for specific learning activities. These activities should be planned and structured to enhance learning outcomes.
- (i) A principal may choose to limit spaces in the building where PMD use is permitted during a break or a spare, based on the school community's context.
- (j) Student PMDs are not permitted to be used in bathrooms or changing rooms under any circumstances.
- (k) Student PMDs are not permitted to be used during a test or in an exam setting unless students have been given explicit permission by the teacher or supervisor administering the test or exam to accommodate an identified educational need.
- (l) Students who bring PMDs to school must comply with the Student Code of Conduct policy. Students who refuse to comply with Tsuut'ina Education's regulations for using PMDs in the school setting may be subject to disciplinary measures per the Student Discipline Policy.

The Tsuut'ina Education Board of Trustees carries out its mandate to govern the Tsuut'ina Education Department in accordance with the *Tsuut'ina Education Act*. The decision to restrict student personal mobile device use in our schools was made in accordance with this mandate.

By implementing the aforementioned policies, we anticipate several positive impacts on our learning environments, including reduced distractions, improved focus during instructional time, enhanced student mental health, and decreased opportunities for cyberbullying. The policy changes will become effective in all Tsuut'ina Education Schools on **February 3, 2025**.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information.

Siyísgáàs,



Jonathan Kaiswatum
Director of Education
Tsuut'ina Education Department