

School District No. 73 Kamloops-Thompson



Digital Device Policy

The staff at Kamloops Open Online Learning is dedicated to fostering an environment that prioritizes learning and empowers every student to reach their full potential. To uphold this standard, we will be implementing important restrictions regarding the use of personal digital devices, including cell phones, in alignment with the BC Ministry of Education's [Ministerial Order - M89](#). By placing restrictions on personal device use, we aim to support student focus and well-being during instructional time.

M89 / SD73 - Digital Device Restriction:

Comply with **restrictions** on personal digital device use at school to promote online safety and focused learning environments by demonstrating:

- use of personal digital devices for instructional purposes and digital literacy development;
- use of personal digital devices that is appropriate to a student's age and developmental stage;
- use personal digital devices for accessibility and accommodation needs, including medical and health needs;
- use personal digital devices to support equitable access to learning outcomes.

What is Considered a Digital Device?

- Cell phones
- Smart watches
- Tablets
- Computers
- Earbuds/Headphones
- Music players
- Portable gaming devices
- Other similar devices

School Restrictions on Digital Devices

- **During Instructional time:** Personal digital devices will not be permitted for use in the classroom, except with the express permission of the classroom teacher
- **No personal device zones:** All school areas, including bathrooms, hallways, and common areas, will be designated as “no personal device zones” during instructional time.

What is considered instructional time?

- Instructional time at @KOOL is defined as times that a student has signed-in to one of our KOOL school sites for in-person support and/or instruction.
- Breaks are not considered instructional time. When students sign-out for a break as agreed with the teacher, “instructional time” rules no longer apply and students are free to use their devices.

Storage of Digital Devices

During instructional time, students will be required to store their personal digital devices (turned off or in silent mode) in a location designated by their classroom teacher. Acceptable storage options may include:

- Classroom storage areas
- Student backpacks, bags, or purses

Please note: @KOOL does not assume responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of any personal digital devices, *including those turned over to school staff*. Students who bring personal devices to school do so at their own risk.

Accommodation for Students

@KOOL is committed to meeting the needs of all students. Students requiring specific accommodations related to digital devices will be identified by our Learning Assistance Resource Teachers, School Counsellor, or Administrator.

International or English Language Learner (ELL) students who require translation assistance (as identified by the Learning Assistance Resource Teacher or Inclusive Education Plan) may use translator-only devices as an accommodation.

Progressive Discipline for Non-Compliance

Our school policy for addressing non-compliance is in the spirit of educating and empowering our students to redefine their use of personal digital devices.

1. **First offense:** The teacher will confiscate the device for the duration of the class/work session, and will contact the parent or guardian.

2. **Second offense:** The student will be required to turn in their device to the office, and an administrator will contact the parent or guardian. The device will be returned to the student that day at a time determined by an administrator.
3. **Third offense:** The student will turn in their device to the office for the remainder of the day, and the parent or guardian will be asked to collect the device from the office at the end of the day as determined by an administrator.
4. **Continued non-compliance:** If the student repeatedly disregards the policy, a meeting will be arranged with the parent/guardian, the student, and an administrator to create a personalized device plan.

How can parents support their students?

We kindly ask that parents support this policy by having a conversation with their student about the @KOOL Personal Digital Device Policy. The links below include resources that can support your conversation. Further to this, we are asking parents to refrain from contacting students during instructional time. In case of an emergency, please contact the school at **778-471-6061**, and we will ensure your student is reached promptly.

Digital Device Information:

- [Personal Digital Device Restrictions Support Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [CBC - Social Media Impacts on Teens \(Nov 2023\)](#)
- <https://mediasmarts.ca/digital-media-literacy>