



Use of Student Owned Devices at USDB

DRAFT

Reviewed/Revised: July 2025	Effective Date: August 1, 2025
Authorized By: Joel Coleman, Superintendent	
Board Approval (pending): Sep 4, 2025	

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1. This policy addresses student use of personal mobile phones and other smart devices consistent with [UCA 53G-7-227](#)
- 1.2. This policy is based on research about the detrimental effects of mobile devices and social media, and is consistent with phone-free [schools](#) initiatives across the country.
- 1.3. This policy applies to device access and usage on USDB campuses, self-contained classrooms, field trips, or other off-campus activities for students enrolled in USDB programs during normal school hours.
- 1.4. This policy does not apply to students enrolled in other LEAs who receive educational services from USDB providers.
- 1.5. This policy does not apply to the use of school-owned devices issued by USDB.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. "Personal electronic devices" means cellphones, smartwatches, or similar emerging technology.

3. Policy for Utah School for the Deaf (USD)

- 3.1. Bell-to-Bell Ban: Personal electronic devices must be powered off or set to silent and stored out of sight from the start of the school day until dismissal.
- 3.2. The school may prescribe a method of storage outside of student control.
- 3.3. Devices may not be used during lunch, recess, or transitions between classes.
- 3.4. Violations of this policy are enforceable by confiscation or other means in accordance with the USDB [student conduct and discipline policy](#).
- 3.5. Statutory Exceptions: A student may use a personal electronic device during classroom hours for:
 - 3.5.1. Responding to an imminent threat to the health or safety of any individual;
 - 3.5.2. Responding to a school-wide emergency;

- 3.5.3. Accessing the SafeUT Crisis Line for urgent safety or mental health support;
- 3.5.4. Complying with a documented IEP or Section 504 accommodation;
- 3.5.5. Addressing a documented medical necessity.

3.6. Other exceptions

- 3.6.1. A teacher may invite or permit students to use personal electronic devices during class if necessary for a specific instructional activity. If any student does not have a personal device, a school-owned device shall be provided.
- 3.6.2. Any additional exceptions shall be approved by the USD associate superintendent and based on a compelling need that outweighs the benefits of adherence to the ban.

4. Policy for the Utah School for the Blind (USB)

- 4.1. Because accessible personal technology use is a vital component of the expanded core curriculum and other learning activities for students who are blind or have low vision, the bell-to-bell personal device ban is not applicable to students enrolled in USB campus programs.
- 4.2. Limitations on student use of personal technology are determined on a case-by-case basis and approved by the USB associate superintendent.