



Next Generation Academy
K-8 Charter School
3740 S Holden Rd,
Greensboro, NC 27406

Wireless Communication Devices/Cell Phone Policy

Wireless communication devices are prohibited from being used, displayed, or being turned on during instructional time for students. The exceptions to this include teacher authorization of the use of devices for educational purposes or for emergencies, or if the devices are required by a 504 or IEP plan or to manage a student's health care. The law (HB 959) defines "wireless communication device" as a wireless, portable device that can provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties-meaning that phones, tablets, laptops, watches, and gaming devices are all included in the definition. This policy aligns with North Carolina Statue 115C-76.100.

Wireless Communication Devices at School

Students are discouraged from bringing wireless communication devices to school. If these devices are brought to school they must remain in the student's backpack during the instructional day. Simply having the device on airplane or silent mode is not sufficient and could subject the student to discipline. The school is **not** liable if the device is lost, broken, or stolen. If a wireless communication device is visible or in use without expressed permission from an authorized staff member, the device will be confiscated and secured in the front office for a parent/guardian pick up at an appointed time.

Access to School-Issued Device

At Next Generation Academy, we pride ourselves with being 'one-to-one' with school-issued devices for students in grades 3-8, and access to classroom sets of devices for K-2. Students have safe access to the internet and digital educational platforms, information, and sites with these devices. For this reason, student wireless communication devices are not needed for educational purposes.

Process for Emergencies

In the case of emergencies, staff and/or students will use the school phones located in the classrooms to contact family members. It is the responsibility of the staff member to determine the need for contacting the family member based on the circumstance. Examples of emergencies include health-related concerns, injuries or illness, and major changes in transportation and/or arrival/dismissal plans. It will be beneficial for students to learn the contact numbers for their family members.

Process for Exceptions

All known exceptions must be documented by completing our ***Wireless Communication Device Exception Request Form***. This form will be kept on file by the school and the classroom teacher(s) and will explain the rationale for the exception. Please know that any request for exceptions outside of the legal boundaries for wireless device usage (required by a 504 or IEP plan or to manage a student's health care) will **not** be approved.



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Wireless Communication Devices during Non-Instructional Times

Students may use wireless communication devices during non-instructional times outside of the regular school hours. Students are subject to the expressed expectations and consequences regarding the use of the devices withing these non-instructional times. These times/locations include but are not limited to- buses, field trips, after-school programs, and extra-curricular events at the school.

Consequences for Violations of this Policy

The student's phone will be confiscated by staff, and an authorized family member is required to pick up the device from the front office at the time communicated by the administrative team.

If there are repeated violations of the policy the phone may be banned from campus and students may be suspended and/or dismissed from the school.