



Siksika Board of Education

P.O. Box 1099

Siksika, AB T0J 3W0

Telephone: (403)734-4028 Fax: (403)734-2505 Toll Free: 1-855-570-2685

Website: www.siksikaed.com



December 19, 2024

Subject: Important Update: New Personal Device Policy for 2025 School Year

Oki Siksika Board of Education Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

We want to inform you about an important change coming to our school that will help create a more focused learning environment for our students.

Starting **January 6, 2025**, we're implementing new guidelines for personal electronic devices in alignment with Alberta's province-wide initiative to enhance student learning and well-being.

What This Means for Your Child:

During class time, all personal electronic devices must be:

- Turned off completely
- Stored out of sight (in lockers, backpacks, or designated areas)

This policy applies to:

- Cell phones and smartphones
- Smart watches
- Headphones
- Other personal electronic devices

Understanding the Exemptions:

We recognize that some students require access to their devices for essential purposes. Approved exemptions include:

1. Medical and Health Needs:
 - Monitoring medical conditions (such as diabetes with blood sugar tracking)



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- Managing health-related apps or devices
 - Emergency medical alerts
2. Special Learning Needs:
- Assistive technology for learning disabilities
 - Digital learning aids for coded students as prescribed in Individual Program Plans (IPPs)
 - Specialized learning accommodations
3. Teacher-Directed Learning (with prior principal approval):
- Specific educational activities requiring device use
 - Research projects
 - Interactive learning programs
 - Digital presentations
4. Case-by-Case Situations (with prior principal approval):
- Special circumstances approved by the principal
 - Temporary accommodations for specific needs
 - Emergency family situations

To Request an Exemption:

- Submit a written request to the school administration
- Provide supporting documentation (medical notes, learning assessments, etc.)
- Meet with appropriate staff to discuss accommodations
- Await formal written approval before device use

Why We're Making This Change:

This new policy will help:

- Maximize learning time in the classroom
- Improve student focus and engagement
- Support mental health and well-being
- Reduce cyberbullying
- Create a more positive learning environment



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Working Together:

We ask for your support in helping your child adjust to these new guidelines. You can help by:

- Discussing these changes with your child
- Making arrangements for emergency contact through the school office
- Supporting the policy at home by encouraging device-free study time
- Informing us promptly about any medical or learning needs requiring exemptions

If you have any questions about this policy or need to request an exemption for your child, please contact your child's school. We're committed to working with families to ensure all students' needs are met while maintaining an optimal learning environment.

Thank you for your cooperation in creating the best possible learning environment for our students.

Regards,

Wanda Calf Robe
Assistant Superintendent
Siksika Board of Education.

