New policies required by recent legislation in NC to be added:

Policy #1 Restrictions on Sleeping Quarters During School Events (Required Asap)

Policy #2 Cell Phones and Wireless Communication Devices (Required by Jan 1)

Policy #3 Evaluation of Technology Costs (Required in 25-26 for reporting in Aug 2026)

RESTRICTIONS ON SLEEPING QUARTERS DURING SCHOOL EVENTS

Pursuant to G.S. 115C-76.110, during any activity or event authorized by the school, students shall not share sleeping quarters with a member of the opposite biological sex, except under the following circumstances:

• The parent or legal guardian of all students sharing the sleeping quarters have provided written permission to the School.

• The member of the opposite biological sex is the student's immediate family member.

S.L. 2025-84; G.S. 115C-76.110

CELL PHONES AND WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

North Carolina Law* restricts the use of cellular phones and wireless communications devices during instructional time. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that use of wireless communication devices do not disrupt the learning environment. Accordingly, and consistent with North Carolina law, students are only allowed to use wireless communication devices in limited circumstances.

Definition of "Wireless Communication Device"

A "wireless communication device" is a wireless, portable device that can provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties. The following is a non-exhaustive list of wireless communication devices governed by this policy: cellular phones, laptops, gaming devices, smart watches, and any personal technology device.

Permitted Uses

Students are prohibited from using, displaying, or possessing a wireless communication device during instructional time, except under the following circumstances.

- When expressly authorized by a teacher for educational purposes.
    - A teacher must clearly state the intended educational purpose to students and shall have documentation available to support the use (e.g., lesson plans detailing why devices would be needed).

- The teacher shall only allow devices for the duration and purpose allowed.

- When expressly authorized for a teacher for use in an emergency.
- When required by the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan;
- As required to manage a student's health care, in accordance with a documented medical condition.
    - Students who need wireless communication device to manage health care must request access from the school and as part of that request, must provide documentation from a licensed medical professional outlining the necessity of access to the device.
    - If approved by administration, students with documented medical condition shall be granted permission to use the wireless communication device only as necessary for their condition.
    - The school shall make accommodations as needed to ensure the student has access to their device but without compromising the educational environment.

Procedures

Option 1: Students who bring a wireless communication device with them to class much check in the device with the teacher before class begins. Placing a device on silent or airplane mode is not sufficient. The teacher shall keep the devices in a secured and designated area, and neither the teacher nor students shall use the devices except in case of an emergency.

Option 2: Students may keep wireless communication devices in their possession, provided they are turned off during instructional and class time. However, any wireless communication device (including a smartwatch) must be turned off and put away. Placing a device on silent or airplane mode is not sufficient.

Consequences

Students in violation of this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the school's code of conduct, which shall reflect the restrictions set forth in this policy.

S.L. 2025-38; G.S. 115C-76.100

***On July 1, 2025, North Carolina adopted legislation that requires local boards of education and public-school units to adopt policies restricting the use of wireless communication devices. Although the law requires that PSUs adopt the policies required by the bill on or before January 1, 2026, a separate section requires PSUs to provide copies of their board-approved policies to NCDPI on or before September 1 in the year in which the law becomes effective. Since the bill became effective when it was enacted into law, schools are advised to adopt the policies on or before September 1, notwithstanding the January 1, 2026, deadline.**

EVALUATION OF TECHNOLOGY COSTS

The School shall report to the State Board of Education the following information by August 15 of each year:

- The break/fix rate of School technology devices during the previous school year;
- The total number of technology devices currently in operation in the School;
- The total number of technology devices in the School that required repair or were no longer in service during the previous school year; and
- The total amount of funds spent to repair or replace technology devices during the previous school year.

The School shall evaluate technology cost considerations adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10

S.L. 2025-46; G.S. 115C-281.33; G.S. 115C-102.10