



Pines Alternative School Personal Device Policy

In accordance with the [Government of Alberta's Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools](#) and [Red Deer Public Schools Administrative Procedure 145](#), Pines Alternative School has implemented the following guidelines for the use of personal devices on school grounds. These policies aim to ensure an optimal learning environment by minimizing distractions and promoting respectful use of technology.

Policy Details

- Personal devices, including cell phones and ear buds, are not permitted in instructional spaces at Pines Alternative School.
- Students are expected to store their devices in their lockers or another secure location outside of the classroom during instructional time.

Violation Procedures

1. **First Violation:** The device will be confiscated by the teacher or administrator and returned to the student at the end of the class. Parents or guardians will be notified of the incident.
2. **Second Violation:** The device will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day. Parents or guardians will again be notified.
3. **Third Violation:** The device will be confiscated, and a parent or guardian must come to the school to retrieve it. Parents will be required to discuss the issue with school administration.
4. **Fourth Violation:** The student will receive a one-day out-of-school suspension. Parents or guardians will be informed and asked to meet with school administration to address the ongoing concern.
5. **Further Violations:** Additional consequences may be applied at the discretion of school administration, which could include extended suspensions or other disciplinary measures.

Rationale This policy aligns with provincial and district guidelines to foster a focused and respectful educational environment. Research supports that reducing personal device use in instructional spaces improves engagement, academic performance, and student well-being. The following studies support this rationale:



Pines Alternative School
8 Page Ave
Red Deer, AB Canada T4P 2T2

Phone: 403 343 1354
pines@rdpsd.ab.ca
www.rdpsd.ab.ca/alternative

- *The 2023 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report*
- *Smartphone Bans, Student Outcomes and Mental Health, February 2024*
- *Jon Haidt, The Case for Phone-Free Schools, June 6, 2023*
- *Social Media and Youth Mental Health: U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory, 2023*
- *Cell Phones, Student Rights, and School Safety: Finding the Right Balance, Canadian Journal of Educational Administration and Policy, 2021*
- *Brain Drain: The Mere Presence of One's Own Smartphone Reduces Available Cognitive Capacity, April 3, 2017*

Parental Communication Parents are encouraged to support this policy by discussing appropriate device use with their children. In case of emergencies, parents can contact the school office to relay messages to their child.

Contact Information If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please contact the Pines Alternative School office at 403-343-1354 or via email at pines@rdpsd.ab.ca.

Principal: Stephen Pottage
Vice-Principal: Jim Bussard

