



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

DEVICE USE POLICY

*Listen, children, to a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight
- Proverbs 4:1*


Drafted	Meeting Date
May 22, 2024	June 4, 2024

Derek Luk, Senior Policy Advisor
 Shazia Vlahos, Chief Communications Officer, Policy, Government Relations & Strategy
 Cecilia Onyia, Senior Legal Counsel
 Antonella Ceddia, Executive General Counsel and Head of Legal Services
 Michael Caccamo, Superintendent of Nurturing Our Catholic Community / Safe Schools / Continuing Education

RECOMMENDATION REPORT


Vision: *IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.*

Mission: *Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.*



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope



Brendan Browne
 Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora
 Associate Director of Academic Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

Derek Boyce
 Associate Director of Corporate Services and Chief Commercial Officer

Ryan Putnam
 Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide the Governance and Policy Committee (GAP) with a proposed Device Use Policy (Appendix A) to address a requirement outlined in the Ministry of Education's updated Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 128 - Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 40 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. The proposed Device Use Policy addresses the PPM's requirement for school boards to develop a local policy restricting use devices during instructional time.

C. BACKGROUND

1. On April 28, 2024, the Minister of Education announced revisions to PPM 128 that includes restrictions on the use of devices in schools.
2. To comply with the revised PPM 128, school boards are required to develop a policy outlining restrictions on student use of devices in schools and enforcement. The policy must comply with the board's obligations under the Education Act and other relevant provincial policy and legislation.
3. The PPM notes the restriction on device use applies to all members of the school community and would include staff not using personal devices during instructional time, in addition to students.
4. For students in grade 6 and below, at minimum the local policy must require that students' devices are stored out of view and powered off or set to silent mode throughout the full instructional day, except when their use is explicitly permitted by the educator.
5. For grades 7 to 12, at minimum the local policy must require that devices are stored out of view and powered off or set to silent mode during instructional time, except when their use is explicitly permitted by the educator.
6. The PPM is effective September 1, 2024. The implication being the boards' impacted policies and procedures should be in place by the start of the 2024-2025 school year.
7. On May 16, 2024, staff presented the results of the boards' survey on cellphone use in classrooms.

8. On May 16, 2024, the board directed staff to prepare a draft policy in response to PPM 128 regarding devices used in schools during instructional time and proposed revisions to all other policies affected.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The survey results align with the Ministry's direction to limit cellphone use during instructional time.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Subject to legislative and/or regulatory changes requiring earlier review, the Device Use Policy will be reviewed every three years.
2. The proposed Device Use Policy addresses the PPM's expectations.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Staff recommends that the proposed Device Use Policy provided in Appendix A be approved.