



## **CELL PHONES, SMARTPHONES, PAGERS & OTHER ELECTRONIC SIGNALING DEVICES POLICY**

The Alpha Public Schools (“Alpha” or the “Charter School”) Board of Directors recognizes the potential for cell phones, smartphones, pagers, and electronic signaling devices (hereinafter collectively referred to as “private devices”) to disrupt the learning environment of the Charter School, and adopts this Policy to permit students to possess and/or use private devices as provided for in this Policy below. Students who possess any private devices must always keep them turned off and out of view while on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities and functions. Charter School teachers, administrators, and staff will confiscate any private devices used by a student in violation of this Policy.

All students are required to adhere to the following guidelines regarding private devices:

K-4: Private devices are not permitted. Private devices will be confiscated and returned only to the parent/guardian.

5-8: Private devices use is not permitted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on campus with the exception of the designated dismissal area after 3:30 p.m. Students in the after school program may not use their private devices in the program. Students are highly encouraged to turn in their private devices to the main office at the beginning of each day and collect it at the end of each day. If a private device is not turned into the front office and it is visible or audible during the school day for whatever reason, it will be confiscated and only returned to a guardian. Please note that the school is not liable for lost or damaged private devices that were not turned into the front office.

9-12: Students must keep their private devices off and out of sight during school hours except at designated times. Misuse of any personal private devices will lead to confiscation and additional parent involvement.

Private devices may be used:

- Off campus before or after school.
- Before or after any Charter School sponsored activity occurring before or after the regular school day.
- In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
- When a teacher or administrator of the Charter School grants permission to a student to possess or use a private device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator.
- When a licensed physician and surgeon determines that the possession or use of a private device is necessary for the health or well-being of the student.
- When the possession or use of a private device is required in a student’s individualized education program (“IEP”).

Possession of private devices is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this Policy. All Charter School employees shall remove any private device from the possession of a student found to be violating this Policy. If a private device is heard ringing, beeping, or buzzing from inside a jacket, purse, backpack, or other similar article, whether within the immediate presence of the student or not, a Charter School employee may remove the private device and confiscate the private device. Parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up any confiscated private devices at the end of the regular school day or at the conclusion of a Charter School sponsored activity.

In addition to this Policy, all other applicable Charter School student discipline policies and rules shall apply to any student who fails to comply with the requirements of this Policy.

The School will keep a Lost and Found box in the main office which will be accessible to students and parents/guardians.

Students who possess any private device(s) shall assume sole responsibility for the maintenance and care of any such private device(s) in accordance with this Policy. At no time, except as otherwise noted within this Policy, shall the Charter School be responsible for preventing theft, loss or damage to any private devices brought onto campus or at Charter School sponsored activities.