

Possession of a Personal Electronic Device on a School Bus

“Personal Electronic Device” (PED) is defined as any device which electronically communicates, sends, receives, stores, reproduces or displays voice and/or text communication or data. This includes, but is not limited to cellular phones, pagers, smart phones, music and media players, gaming devices, tablets, laptop computers and personal digital assistants.

PED’s shall be permitted on school buses, as authorized by the driver, unless use of the PED causes a disruption on the school bus. The use of a PED is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, use of such devices on school property can be suspended and/or revoked at any time by the administration.

School bus use guidelines for PED’s:

1. Devices must have all sounds silenced and/or headphones must be worn so that other passengers and/or the driver will not be disrupted.
2. Headphones must be worn **in one ear only** to allow passengers to hear any announcements or emergency signals during travel.
3. Devices must be off, earbuds/earphones must be removed and, PED’s stored away when entering and exiting the school bus.
4. Taking of photographs and/or recording video on PED’s is strictly prohibited.
5. Sharing of PED’s between passengers is strictly prohibited. A student may not share the device with another passenger, and he/she may not share headphones with another passenger.
6. At night and during dawn and dusk driving hours, the video display screens on all PED’s must be shielded or the brightness must be lowered so the bright screens do not create a visual distraction for the drivers.
7. The school bus driver has the right to deny and/or prohibit the use of PED’s on a per trip basis for safety or disciplinary reasons.
8. The school bus is an extension of the physical school property; therefore, all policies pertaining to personal items on school property must be followed.
9. All PED’s carried onto school property are subject to search and seizure as outlined in the “Student Code of Conduct.”

In addition, because PED’s are not a necessity for educational purposes, responsibility for them rests with the students. The Graham Local School District is not responsible for loss of or damage to PED’s. Further, students are prohibited from using cameras in ways that invade someone else’s privacy. Finally, videos/movies played on any PED MUST be school appropriate.

