POLICY Board of Education of Queen Anne's County

Responsible Office:	Assistant Superintendent

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to authorize the establishment of guidelines for the student and employees of Queen Anne's County Public Schools' (QACPS) use of electronic communication devices on the grounds, buildings, and buses of QACPS in accordance with the Joanne C. Benson Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act (Maryland House Bill 525).

II. POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Education of Queen Anne's County (Board) is committed to providing safe, engaging, and distraction-free learning environments that support academic achievement, student well-being, positive school climate, and meaningful interpersonal interaction. The Board prohibits student use of personal electronic communication devices during the academic school day.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. *Academic School Day* – any structured or unstructured learning experiences that occurs from the first bell at the start of the school day until the dismissal bell at the end of the school day, including instructional periods, lunch, recess, passing periods, and transitional periods.

B. *Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks Policy* - the overriding policy that governs and establishes guidelines for the use of all technology equipment, software, related materials, electronic communications, and licensed network systems.

C. *Electronic communication device* – any portable electronic device carried or transported by a student to receive, send, or record voice, image, or text content, including cellphones, Smartwatches, wireless headphones and earbuds, tablets, personal laptops or gaming devices, geolocation devices, Smartglasses, or any other device with communication functions

D. *Guidelines* – procedures designed to ensure that portable devices do not disrupt the learning environment.

E. *Public School Property* – any Queen Anne's County Public School grounds, building, and buses.

F. *Social Media Platform* – an internet-based application, website, or digital service that enables users to create, share, or view content or to interact with other users through

profiles, accounts, feeds, messaging, comments, reactions, or similar social features, and that is primarily designed to facilitate social interactions, user-generated content, or content distribution to a broad or semi-public audience.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

V. POLICY REVIEW

The policy is to be reviewed by the responsible office annually after its initial adoption.

VI. SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO TITLES, DEPARTMENTS, OR LAWS

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

Date: August 5, 2026

Matthew Kibler, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Queen Anne's County Public Schools

HISTORY:

Initial Adoption	01/04/17	**Revised**	04/06/22 08/05/26	**Reviewed**	--/--/----	**Next Review**	08/05/27