

Section 1: Purpose & Vision

1.1 Vision: Disconnected to Reconnect

The BIE recognizes that while mobile technology is a powerful tool, unrestricted access to personal wireless devices during the school day is linked to increased anxiety, cyberbullying, and reduced academic focus. This document is designed to build a culture of responsible device use, not solely to restrict access, so that students can engage deeply with their teachers, peers, and heritage without interference from digital distractions.

1.2 Scope and Applicability

- **Personal Wireless Device:** A *personal wireless device* is any privately owned or non-school-issued electronic device that is capable of transmitting, receiving, storing, or accessing data through wireless communication technologies (including but not limited to Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, cellular networks, or radio signals). Such devices include (1) smartphones and other mobile phones; (2) smartwatches and other wearable technology; (3) wireless earbuds and headphones; (3) tablets and e-readers; (4) laptop and notebook computers; (5) portable gaming devices; and (6) any accessory with wireless communication capability.

Section 2: General Device Policies

2.1 Rules for Personal Wireless Devices During School Hours

- **The Core Rule:** Use of personal wireless devices is strictly prohibited from the moment a student enters the school building until the completion of the student's academic programming, unless otherwise noted by this policy.
- **Storage Requirements:** All personal wireless devices must remain powered off (or on airplane mode to allow for locator capability) and stored completely out of sight in the student's backpack or locker for the duration of the school day.
- **Smartwatches:** Students may wear smartwatches solely for safety and tracking purposes (e.g., passive GPS location tracking or emergency SOS features). These

devices must remain in "Do Not Disturb" mode, meaning they are silenced and receive no notifications. Use of a smartwatch for any reason other than safety or tracking purposes constitutes a direct violation of this policy.

- **Laptops and Tablets:** Student-owned personal computing devices, such as laptops and iPads, are not allowed in school.
- **Extracurricular Activities/Field Trips/Non-School Hour Activities:** During any extended academic programming and all extracurricular or non-academic activities, including after-school programs, Saturday School, intersessions, field trips, tutoring, athletics, and clubs, use of personal wireless devices is permitted only at the supervising staff member's discretion. *Extended academic programming means any school-sponsored instructional time outside the regular school day intended to deliver academic instruction.*

Section 3: Exceptions & Safety

3.1 Emergency Protocols

- **Crisis Situations and Override Access:** In the event of a school-wide lockdown, crisis, or active emergency, students must have a clear and immediate pathway to contact emergency services. Students are permitted to use their phones to communicate with family, **but only immediately after following safety directions from staff**. Schools should ensure that these emergency communication procedures are accessible, reliable, and clearly communicated to students.
- **Daily Emergencies: For emergency communication, parents are required to contact the Front Office.** Staff will relay messages to students in a timely manner. To support the instructional environment, parents should refrain from calling or texting their student's personal wireless device during the school day. Keep in mind that students will not have access during the school day.

3.2 Tribal Sovereignty & Cultural Use

- **Data Sovereignty:** Students are strictly prohibited from uploading recordings of sacred ceremonies or sensitive cultural practices to public social media platforms (e.g., TikTok, Instagram) while on school grounds.

Section 4: Implementation & Staff Expectations

4.1 Violations of Policy: The "Three Strikes" Model (Suggested)

- **1st Offense (Redirect):** Verbal warning; student must put the device in the appropriate storage immediately.
- **2nd Offense (Confiscate):** The device will be placed by the student in a designated area (e.g., the teacher's desk) and returned to the student at the end of the class period.
- **3rd Offense (Escalate):** Device confiscated and turned into the Front Office; parent/guardian must pick it up.
- **Refusal to Surrender:** Refusal to hand over a device constitutes "Insubordination," and may carry separate consequences under the Student Code of Conduct.

4.2 Staff Modeling (Digital Role Modeling)

We recognize that students learn by observation. Therefore, school staff are expected to model healthy digital habits.

- **Instructional Time:** Teachers and staff should refrain from using personal wireless devices for personal business (texting, scrolling) during active instructional time.
- **Emergency Exception:** Staff use of phones for school safety, emergency communication, or two-factor authentication for school accounts is permitted.

4.3 Infrastructure & Filtering (CIPA)

- **Network Isolation:** Student and staff personal wireless devices are not permitted to join the secure BIE Admin/Student Wi-Fi network.
- **Filter Bypass:** Use of VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) or hotspots to bypass school content filters is a violation of the Technology Acceptable Use Policy.

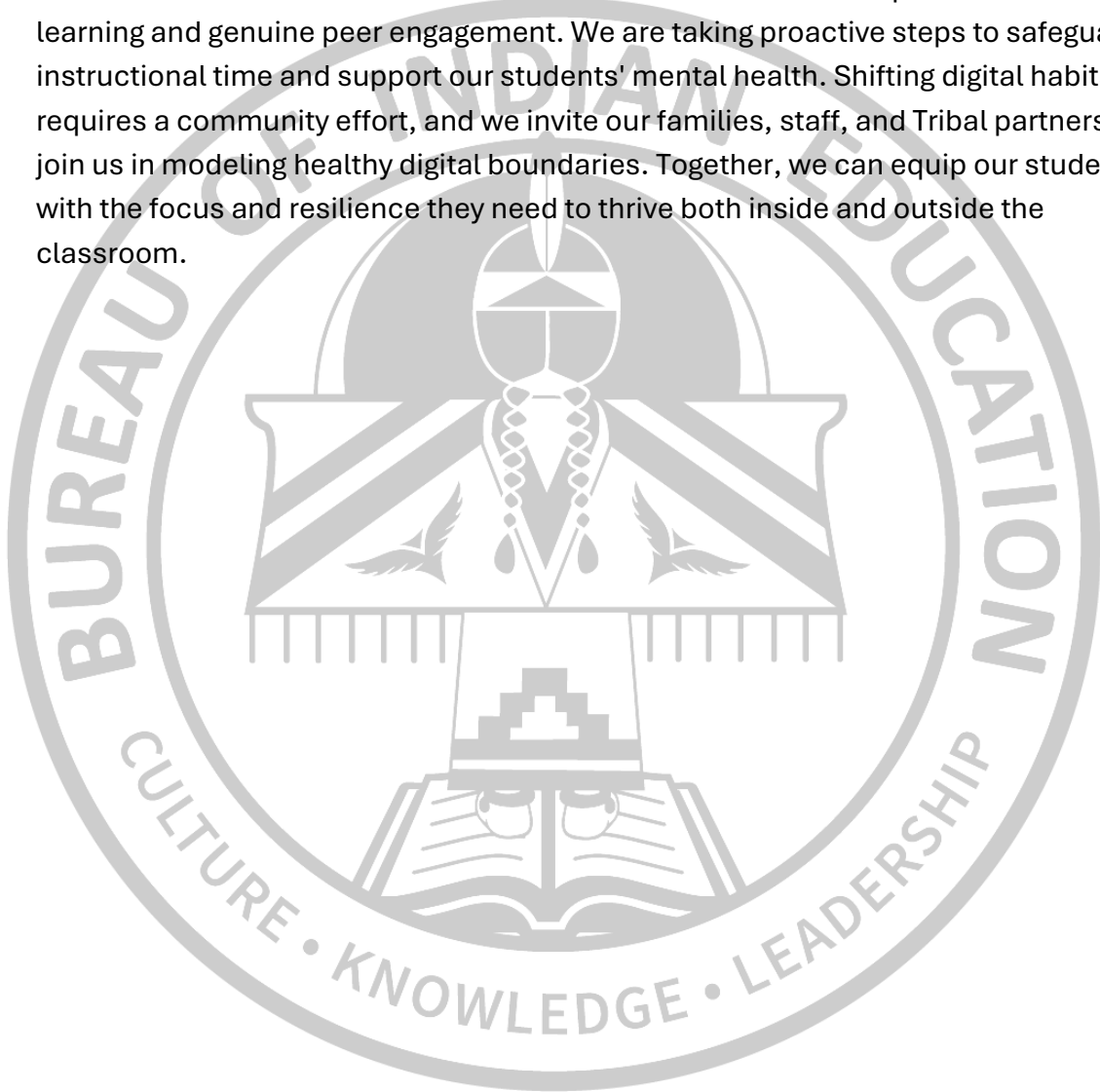
4.4 Liability for Personal Property

- **BIE or its employees are not financially or legally responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of personal wireless devices brought onto school property.** This limitation of liability applies to devices kept in student possession, placed in classroom or school storage systems, or temporarily held by staff in accordance with school policy.

Section 5: Conclusion & Acknowledgments

5.1 Conclusion and Shared Commitment

- The BIE prioritizes the academic success, cultural connection, and holistic wellness of every student. While technology remains an essential educational tool, this framework ensures that our classrooms remain dedicated spaces for active learning and genuine peer engagement. We are taking proactive steps to safeguard instructional time and support our students' mental health. Shifting digital habits requires a community effort, and we invite our families, staff, and Tribal partners to join us in modeling healthy digital boundaries. Together, we can equip our students with the focus and resilience they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.



Policy Acknowledgment & Signature Page

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to adhere to the expectations outlined in the BIE Personal Wireless Devices & Digital Wellness Policy.

Student Acknowledgment: I agree to follow the personal wireless device policy expectations and understand the consequences of violating this policy.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment: I have reviewed this policy and agree to support the school in enforcing these boundaries to protect instructional time and student wellness. I understand the procedures for emergency communication and device confiscation.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

