

VIBRANT MINDS



VIBRANT MINDS CHARTER SCHOOL

TK-6 Grade, Free, Public Education

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BOARD POLICY SMARTPHONE (ELECTRONICS) BAN POLICY

There is growing evidence that unrestricted use of personal smartphones by scholars at elementary schools during the school day interferes with the educational mission of the school, lowers scholar performance (particularly among low-achieving scholars), promotes cyberbullying, and contributes to an increase in a scholars' anxiety and depression.

In compliance with California Assembly Bill 272 ("AB272"), Vibrant Minds Charter School (VMCS) implements a "Smartphone/Electronic Device" ban policy in order to promote scholar achievement and healthy social development. Smartphone/Electronic Device is defined as cell phones, smart phones, IPODs, MP3 players, portable video game players, or any electronic signaling device that operates through the transmission or receipt of radio waves, including, but not limited to, paging and signaling equipment. VMCS prohibits any use and/or any display of Smartphone/Electronic Devices while the scholars are on campus, attending school-sponsored activities, or under the supervision or control of VMCS employees.

Pursuant to this Policy, all Smartphones/Electronic Devices shall only be in a scholar's backpack (not visible) and turned to off while the scholars are on campus, attending school-sponsored activities, or under the supervision or control of VMCS employees. It is a violation of school policy for a cell phone to be turned to the "on" position or in "airplane mode" during school time. School time is considered to be from the moment a scholar steps onto VMCS property/campus (within the gates of the school) to the moment s/he leaves (outside the school's gates), while attending school-sponsored activities, or under the supervision or control of VMCS employees.

All forms of electronic devices not properly stored pursuant to this Policy will be confiscated by school personnel. Parents will be called to retrieve the item. Scholars may face school disciplinary action, including detention, suspension, and/or expulsion if found in possession of these types of devices in violation of this Policy. The severity of the consequence will be determined by how the electronic device was used.

Notwithstanding the above prohibitions, a scholar shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a smartphone under any of the following circumstances:

- In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
- When a teacher or administrator of VMCS grants permission to a scholar to possess or use a smartphone, subject to any reasonable limitations imposed by that teacher or administrator.

- When a licensed physician and surgeon determines that the possession or use of a smartphone is necessary for the health or well-being of the scholar.
- When the possession or use of a smartphone is required in a scholar's individualized education program.

VMCS and VMCS school personnel are **not** responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items that are prohibited pursuant to this Policy.

Review of Policy

This policy may be reviewed periodically by the VMCS Board.

Adopted: February 10, 2021

Amended: