

Student Personal Device Storage

To follow a Bell-to-Bell policy, schools need a safe and easy way to store student personal devices during the school day. To support student learning, the best option is to keep devices turned off and stored away.

When devices are put away, students are less likely to check messages, use social media, watch videos, or get distracted during class. It also helps protect everyone's privacy in places like locker rooms and bathrooms.

This resource shares different device storage options that schools can use.

Personal Device Storage Options

Storage Method	Arrival Process	During the Day	Dismissal	Who's Responsible
No Device on Campus	Students leave devices at home or in vehicle before entering school	No personal devices allowed during the school day.	Students retrieve devices after leaving school.	Student
Main Office Drop-Off	Students check devices into the main office upon arrival. Devices are secured in lockers/cabinets.	Office staff maintain secure storage. Students may access devices only with administrative approval.	Students retrieve devices at dismissal.	Administration/ Office Staff
Individual Pouches	Students place personal device in locking pouches before first period.	Pouches remain with students locked throughout the school day.	Pouches are unlocked at designated stations at dismissal.	Student/ Administration
Classroom Collection	Students place devices in a classroom organizer at the beginning of each class, homeroom or first period.	Devices remain locked in classroom throughout the day.	Students retrieve devices at the end of the school day.	Teacher/ Advisor

Cost Factors to Consider

- Per-Student Cost
- Replacement Costs
- Hardware Required
- Staff Time

Storage Options

Method	Product Examples	Approximate Cost	Notes	Used by
Individual Pouch	Yondr Pouch, NuKase, NuGerm, etc.	\$15-\$30 each	Pros: Lockable and students store pouch in backpack. Designed specifically for device-free schools. Cons: Expensive, high maintenance	Used in all 50 states Maine: Portland, Mt. Blue, Mt. Ararat, and others
Individual Pouch	Labeled Pencil Case/ Bag	\$2 each	Pros: Inexpensive; Easy classroom management Cons: Requires additional secure storage bins.	Used by many school districts across the country.
Phone Lockers or Cubby	Kagrote Charging Station locker, Pitsco Phone Locker	\$30-\$200 depending on size and charge ports	Pros: Lockable; Portable; Can create an opportunity for positive school culture changes. Con: May create a bottleneck traffic when students are retrieving devices	Used in multiple states. Maine: York High School, Bath Middle School, and others.
Device Bins	Storage bins with dividers	\$4 each	Pros: Portable bins; inexpensive Cons: Less organized; requires additional secure storage.	Used by many school districts across country.
App	LockedIn Phone-Free App	\$30 per student	Pros: Designed for device-free schools, it uses Operating-System level device locking to secure device during school hours. Low maintenance Cons: Expensive	Used by many states across the country

Special Situations for Consideration for Storage Methods

Late Arrival (planned/unplanned)	Student reports to the main office before class to complete the school's device storage procedure.
Early Dismissal (planned/unplanned)- including for athletics or other extra curriculars	Student retrieves their device through the established device storage procedure before leaving campus.
Field Trips	Device remains stored until the student officially leaves school grounds unless otherwise authorized.
Medical Accommodation	School determines whether devices are prohibited, stored, or permitted for medical purposes.
Forgotten Pouches	Student turns device into the main office for secure storage for the day.
Emergency Communication	Parents contact the main office. Students may use classroom or office devices when needed.

Key Resources

- [Maine Department of Education](#): resource to help school leaders meet Maine's bell-to-bell personal electronic device requirement. The guidance highlights the model policy, student-centered implementation strategies, restorative approaches to discipline, available funding support, and upcoming technical assistance opportunities.
- [The Anxious Generation by Jonathon Haidt](#): In his book Haidt makes the case that smartphones have fundamentally disrupted childhood by increasing anxiety, social comparison, and exposure to cyberbullying. He recommends bell-to-bell phone bans, requiring students to stow all devices in designated lockers or magnetically locked pouches for the entire school day.
- [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#): The AAP recommends the 5 Cs of Media Use as a practical framework to help parents navigate social media and screen time. Rather than strict minute limits, the framework encourages parents to consider the Child, Content, Calm (self-regulation), Crowding Out, and Communication.