Alexander Galt Regional High School

Cell Phone Policy Handbook

Last updated - August 2025

Directive from the Minister of Education
(As of January 2024)

1. **School service centers established under the *Public Education Act*, must ensure the implementation of measures to prohibit students from using cell phones, headphones, and other personal mobile devices in school premises and vocational training centers where preschool education and primary and secondary teaching services are provided, except when such use is required for:**

   • Pedagogical intervention measures established by the teacher;

   • A student's health condition; or

   • The specific needs of a student with disabilities or experiencing adaptation or learning difficulties.

2. **School governing boards must define, based on a proposal from the school or center director and with the participation of staff members, the application procedures for the measures that the school service center must implement under Article 1. They are also responsible for communicating these procedures to students and, where applicable, to their parents.**

3. **If the directive is not followed, the school service center must take the necessary steps to ensure that school administrators implement appropriate corrective measures.**

Respect and Civility:

Minister Drainville Sets Clear Rules for All Quebec Schools

Cabinet du ministre de l'Éducation

May 2025

QUEBEC, May 1, 2025 /CNW/ – In light of rising incidents of violence and bullying, Education Minister Bernard Drainville is taking firm action and announcing a series of measures to reinforce respect and civility in Quebec schools. The objective is clear: to provide students and school staff with a safe and respectful environment where bullying and violence have no place. These new measures complement the Violence and Bullying Prevention Plan launched in October 2023.

🚫 Ban on cellphones throughout school grounds: addressing the root causes

Starting in the 2025 school year, the use of cellphones, earphones, and personal mobile devices will be banned from the start to the end of classes, including during breaks and lunch, and this applies to the entire grounds of both public and private schools. This measure expands on the classroom cellphone ban in effect since January 2024. It follows the first recommendation of the Special Commission on the Impact of Screens and Social Media.

The findings are clear: screens are too often the trigger for bullying incidents in schools, and according to the SPVM (Montreal police), many acts of violence begin during class hours. Additionally, most students interviewed by the Commission said they "appreciate the ban on cellphone use at school. They mention that the measure promotes socialization."

Exceptions will remain for pedagogical or health reasons, or for specific needs. Each school will define implementation details in line with these guidelines and existing practices.

Original Cision release:
http://www.newswire.ca/fr/releases/archive/May2025/01/c5629.html

July 2, 2025 – Publication of the amendments in the Official Gazette

AGRHS Cell Phone Policy (2025-2026)



AGRHS – 4 Step Cell Phone Response Plan

Step 1

Cell Phone confiscated and kept in the Triage room for the remainder of the school day. Parents contacted.

STUDENT picks up phone after dismissal.

Step 2

Cell Phone confiscated and kept at the Office. Parents contacted.

PARENT picks up the phone at a scheduled time.

Step 3

Cell Phone confiscated and kept at the Office for the remainder of the school day. Parents contacted.

Phone returned AFTER a scheduled meeting with PARENT, STUDENT, & SCHOOL personnel & an action plan/contract has been agreed upon.

Step 4

Cell Phone confiscated and kept at the Office. Parents contacted.

Phone returned to Parent. Student banned from having a phone on campus for the balance of the school year.

Questions & Answers (FAQ)

Below you will find a series of frequently asked questions regarding the implementation of the Cell Phone Ban effective August 2025.

Why this complete ban?

This measure is meant to create a learning environment that encourages focus, social interaction, and well-being. It follows recommendations from the provincial commission on screen time and social media and builds on the Ministry of Education's earlier step of banning cell phones in classrooms (January 2024). The goal is to give students more screen-free moments during the school day.

How will this ban be implemented?

AGRHS has set clear expectations for students and staff. Cell phones and personal devices must remain in lockers (or at home) from the first bell until the end of classes. Staff will remind students as needed, and non-compliance will be handled through the response plan described above.

Can parents support this initiative?

Yes — parents play a key role. Talking to your child about why the school is making this change and encouraging them to respect the rule will make the transition easier. Families are also encouraged to set their own limits at home so students get used to balancing screen time with other activities.

What exactly is prohibited?

All **personal mobile devices** are covered — this includes cell phones, smart watches, tablets, and wireless headphones/earbuds. Basically, anything that can be used for texting, calling, social media, or online browsing should not be used during the school day.

Where and when does this rule apply?

The ban applies **everywhere on the school campus** — inside classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, the cafeteria & all common spaces, all outdoor areas, and sports fields. It is in effect from the start of the first class until the end of the last class each day.

Where should students keep their cell phones?

Cell phones and devices must be stored in lockers during the school day. Students are strongly encouraged to leave them at home whenever possible.

Can students leave school grounds to use their cell phones?

No. Leaving school property just to use a phone goes against the purpose of the rule, which is to provide students with screen-free time during the school day.

Can devices be used during school outings?

No. The same rule applies during school trips, outings, or extracurricular activities. Students should not be using personal mobile devices during these times either.

From what time are devices permitted?

Students may use their devices before school starts in the morning (9:05) and after the last class ends in the afternoon (3:45). They should not be used during recess, lunch, or breaks in the school day.

In case of an emergency, how can students contact their parents?

Students can go to the house or central office if they need to call home in an emergency. Parents who need to reach their child urgently should contact the school directly.

What if a student is going through a personal or family difficulty?

In sensitive situations, students can speak with a teacher, a student services member, or an administrator. The school will always support students who are facing personal or family difficulties and make sure they can stay connected with loved ones when necessary.

What happens if the rule is not respected?

If a student does not follow the rule, the device will be taken away temporarily. Parents may be asked to pick it up at school. Repeated issues will lead to further consequences in line with the school's code of conduct. Please refer to the AGRHS 4-step response plan described above.

What about devices required for medical reasons?

Exceptions will always be made for medical needs. If a student requires a device for health purposes, parents should inform the school so appropriate accommodations can be arranged. Students with authorization to use the device for medical reasons are restricted to using the device for this purpose. Use outside of this will be subject to the 4-Step response plan.

Is this the end of digital tools at AGRHS?

No. AGRHS will continue to use digital learning tools such as laptops and tablets provided for educational purposes. The ban only applies to **personal mobile devices** that are not being used for learning.

How can students occupy themselves differently during noon hour?

Students are encouraged to spend time with friends, play games, read, or take part in the variety of athletic and other activities offered during noon hour. These alternatives help foster stronger social connections and healthier habits.

Will school staff also comply with this rule?

Yes. Staff members are also expected to set an example by limiting their personal use of mobile devices during the school day, especially around students. Staff are expected to restrict their use of personal devices to the staff room or assigned office spaces.