



Fowlerville Community Schools

Student Personal Communication Device Procedures & Guidelines

Our goal is to give students a protected, PCD-free part of the day, on purpose, where they can be fully present with their peers and teachers. Research shows that reducing constant phone access improves focus, social connection, and mental health - especially during the school day.

FCS defines personal communication devices (PCDs) as student owned electronic devices*. Examples include: computers, tablets, Kindles, mobile phones, smartphones, smartwatches, smartglasses, wireless earbuds/headphones, wearable technology, and other web-enabled devices of any type. **During the instructional day, our campus operates as a PCD-free learning environment.****

Starting on January 20, 2026, each student will be assigned a personal device pouch made by a company called Yondr. While the pouch remains school property, students are responsible for bringing it to school daily and keeping it in working condition. **PCDs must be secured in the pouch upon arrival and remain there until dismissal.**

Daily Process

Before the start of the first period of the day, students will:

- 1) Turn their phones off, or switch them to silent (no vibration) or airplane mode.
- 2) Place their phone inside their Yondr pouch and lock it.
- 3) Keep the pouched phone with them throughout the school day.
- 4) Other types of PCDs must be turned off, silent, or in airplane mode and can also be placed in the pouch. Devices that do not fit in the pouch must be secured in the student's locker or backpack.

At dismissal, students will unlock their pouch, retrieve their PCDs, and should re-close the pouch to protect the locking mechanism from damage. Pouches must be brought to and from school each day.

Note: Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their PCDs in the main office where staff have an unlocking base.

Maintaining a PCD-Free School Day***

Forgotten Pouches

If a student forgets their pouch, **they will turn their PCD into the office to be held until dismissal.** The PCD will be returned to the student at the end of the day. Occasional forgetfulness is expected. Repeated forgetting will prompt a problem-solving conversation with the family and administrator.

Lost Pouch

If a student has lost their pouch, they should request a replacement in the main office. A new pouch will be issued and the replacement cost will be charged to the student/family (approximately \$30).

Unauthorized PCD Use

If a student is found with a personal communication device outside of its required storage during the school day, administration will collect the device and contact home. Administrators will address the situation using procedures outlined in the student handbook.

Pouch Damage

Locking pouches are designed for daily use over multiple years. When damage occurs, administrators will review the pouch to determine whether the damage is accidental, due to normal wear, or intentional. When a pouch is damaged, administration will collect the device and pouch and contact home. Instances of intentional damage are treated as a group III violation of the student code of conduct (see student handbook).

Accidental damage or excessive wear and tear is not considered a code of conduct violation. In either of these cases, the student is responsible for the cost of the replacement of the pouch.

If the administration inspects a damaged pouch and determines that it has worn out over multiple years of use, it may be replaced at no cost to the student.

Signs of willful damage include, but are not limited to:

- Lock mechanism not fully functioning due to pin damage
- Bent locking pin
- Ripped fabric
- Visible damage to lock surface
- Evidence of prying open pouch (ex. internal scratches or pen marks, etc.)
- Incomplete locking (can see green on button)



Use of Unauthorized Magnet

Only District-issued Yondr unlocking magnets may be used to open locking pouches. These magnets are intentionally placed and used by staff in designated locations to reduce risk to students who use medical devices that could be affected by strong magnetic fields.

Unauthorized magnets **can damage personal devices**, damage the pouch, and create safety concerns for some students. For these reasons, unauthorized magnets will be confiscated. Use of an unauthorized magnet is considered a Group II offense and is subject to the penalties outlined in the student handbook.

We recognize that this is a change for students and families.

By establishing consistent expectations around personal communication devices, we aim to create learning spaces that support focus, engagement, and positive peer interaction. School staff will work with students and families to support a smooth and respectful transition.

*Please refer to Board Policy 5136 - Personal Communication Devices (Second Semester 2025-2026) for complete details.

**Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their PCDs. The Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, or damage to, or misuse or unauthorized use of, PCDs brought onto its property.

***Please refer to the Student Handbook for your school for complete details on student code of conduct procedures.