



Citizens of the World Charter Schools – Kansas City
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August 8th, 2025

Subject: New State Law on Personal Electronic Devices

A New State Law on Personal Electronic Devices

What It Means for Citizens Families (K–8)

[Missouri's Senate Bill 68](#) requires all public districts and charter schools to adopt a clear policy limiting student use and display of personal electronic devices during the entire school day—including class time, lunch, and the minutes between classes.

Starting on Wednesday, August 13th, Citizens of the World - Kansas City will follow the same rule: phones and other personal electronic devices must be powered off and out of sight from arrival to dismissal.

This shift isn't just about compliance—it's about creating learning environments where students can thrive academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.

Why This Law Matters

This new rule isn't just about putting phones away—it's about helping students learn, grow, and feel safe. Here's what the research shows:

- **Better Focus & Learning:** Reducing device distractions helps students stay engaged and improves learning outcomes.
- **Calmer Classrooms:** Teachers report fewer disruptions and smoother lessons when phones are put away.
- **Improved Well-Being:** Less mid-day screen time supports emotional health and face-to-face friendships.
- **Safer Spaces:** Removing phones during the day helps reduce cyberbullying and online harassment.
- **Clear Expectations:** A single, statewide rule means consistency for students, staff, and families.

What's Changing at Citizens

Devices must stay powered off and out of sight. Specific instructions on where to store devices will be given to students on the first day of school.

What Families Need to Do Now

- **Talk with your student** about the new law and why staying focused during school hours matters.

- **Plan ahead for communication:** If you have an emergency and need to reach your child during the day, please call the front desk at 816-499-8000.
- **Review any medical or learning needs:** If your student requires device access for an IEP or 504 Plan accommodation, please work with your building principal.
- **Remind your child** to follow school procedures and respect staff directions regarding devices.

Staying in Touch

Families can call the front desk during the school day if there's an emergency or an urgent need and we will make sure your message reaches your child. We are committed to keeping strong communication open between home and school.

School-issued learning devices (like iPads or Macbooks) are not affected by this law.

Are There Exceptions?

Yes. The law allows for exceptions in the following cases:

- **Documented health or learning needs (IEP or 504 plans):** Students who require device access for medical alerts or learning support will be accommodated based on their IEP or 504 Plan. Contact your 504/IEP coordinator to confirm arrangements.
- **School-approved educational purposes:** The school may authorize device use during a specific activity/event.
- **Emergencies:** Students may use devices in an emergency situation- including, but not limited to: fire, tornado, earthquake, dangerous intruder, evacuation of school grounds, medical emergency, etc.

We Understand Your Concerns

We know families may worry about reaching their child during the day or how students who rely on their devices for comfort will adjust. We hear you. That's why we're:

- Training staff for consistent enforcement
- Coaching students on how to adapt to the change
- Creating clear communication pathways between families and schools

Our Commitment to You

We will:

- Communicate expectations clearly and consistently
- Enforce the policy with fairness, compassion, and common sense
- Support students with documented needs
- Keep families informed every step of the way

Our Board-approved policy will be posted on the Citizens' website (as required by law) and included in family handbooks.

If you have questions or need to talk something through, email us at info@cwckansascity.org

We look forward to seeing you at Meet the Teacher on Monday night!