



## **BISD Student Code of Conduct Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

- 1. What are the changes in the Student Code of Conduct for the 2023-2024 school year?**

There are changes related to the student dress code and the enforcement of the district's practices for enforcing the rules for student cell device use. The dress code now includes language stating that high school students are required to wear their student identification badges while on campus. This is not a new rule, but it was previously only stated in the Student Handbook, and not in the dress code. The dress code now includes language stating that students may not wear a hat or a hoodie on their head during the school day. For cellular device use, the Student Handbook states that "The district permits students to possess personal cell phones for safety purposes; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes." This is not a new rule for 23-24. However, students can expect more consistent enforcement of this rule going forward.
- 2. What's the rationale for the renewed enforcement of the cellular device rules?**

BISD seeks to provide a productive, effective and safe learning environment for all of our students. While cellular devices can be an asset to the learning experience if used appropriately, they can also significantly detract from the learning experience if their use is not well regulated. Enforcement of our cellular device rules will allow our teachers to provide clear direction for when cellular devices may be used to enhance the learning experience and it will allow students to experience a better learning environment.
- 3. Is my student allowed to bring their cell phone to school?**

Yes. We know that cellular devices are an important communication tool for parents to stay in contact with their students during the day. Students can possess personal cellular devices at school. These devices must remain turned off during the instructional day unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes.
- 4. When is my student allowed to use their cell phone?**

Students may use their cellular devices during the class period if they are directed to do so by their teacher for use in an approved instructional purpose. Students may use their cellular devices before school, after school, in between classes and during lunch. Students are reminded that all communications made on their cellular devices during the school day must comply with the expectations of the BISD Student Code of Conduct.
- 5. What will happen if my student uses their cell phone at an inappropriate time?**

Students will be reminded of the rule, and asked to put their phone away. If a student continues to use their phone after multiple reminders, their phone may be taken up by a teacher, administrator, or staff member. A student's parent will be contacted if the student's phone is taken up.

**6. If my student's phone is taken up, when will it be returned?**

If the phone is taken up in class, by the classroom teacher, and it is the student's first infraction, the phone will be returned to the student at the end of the class period. If the phone is taken up by an administrator, or if the student has multiple infractions, the phone will be returned to the student at the end of the student's school day. A student's parent will be contacted if the student's phone is taken up.

**7. Will there be a fine to pay to have the student's cellular device returned?**

No.

**8. What's the rationale for the dress code changes regarding hoodies and hats?**

The main reason for the dress code adjustment for hats and hoodies is student safety. Hats and hoodies worn on the head can prevent campus staff or campus cameras from properly identifying students. For safety reasons, campus staff need to be able to clearly identify students at all times while students are on campus.

**9. Is my student allowed to wear a hoodie to school?**

Yes, we know that hoodies are a popular clothing item for students. Students may wear hoodies while on campus. However, students will not be permitted to wear the hood over their head while on campus.

**10. What will happen if my student is wearing their hood?**

Students will be reminded of the rule and asked to remove the hood from their head. If a student persists in wearing the hood on their head, their actions will be addressed as non-compliance and additional Student Code of Conduct consequences may be applied.

**11. Is my student allowed to wear a hat to school?**

No. Students may possess hats on campus. Hats are not prohibited items. However, students may not wear a hat on their head during the school day.

**12. What will happen if my student is wearing their hat?**

Students will be reminded of the rule and asked to remove the hat from their head. If a student persists in wearing the hat, their actions will be addressed as non-compliance and additional Student Code of Conduct consequences may be applied.

**13. If I have additional questions regarding the new changes, who can I contact?**

Any campus administrator at your student's campus will be able to answer questions regarding the Student Code of Conduct.