

## PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

**Immediate Release: June 24, 2024** On June 17, 2024, Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides announced a Ministerial Order regarding students' use of personal mobile devices in schools for the start of the 2024-25 school year.

Highlights of the Ministerial Order:

- K-12 students will not be allowed access to personal mobile devices during school instructional time;
- Personal mobile devices are defined as cell phones, smart phones, watches, headphones or any other personal electronic devices which connect to cellular networks;
- School administrators will work with students and families on a case-by-case basis regarding exemptions for health/medical concerns or special learning needs;
- School divisions have flexibility to determine and define student access to personal mobile devices during designated breaks (ex. lunchtime);
- School divisions will take steps to restrict student access to social media sites;
- School principals may make exemptions to allow the use of personal mobile devices for specific educational purposes on a case-by-case basis.

To address the requirements of the Order, GYPSD will start to develop administrative procedures over the summer which will:

- Define student access to personal mobile devices during designated breaks;
- Define processes to potential exemption due to health/medical reasons, special learning needs or specific educational purposes;
- Define procedures for storing personal mobile devices while use is restricted;
- Define consequences for non-compliance;
- Define expectations for the use of personal mobile devices by GYPSD staff.

More information will be shared prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year. Please visit the Government of Alberta's [website](#) to learn more about the minister's recent announcement.