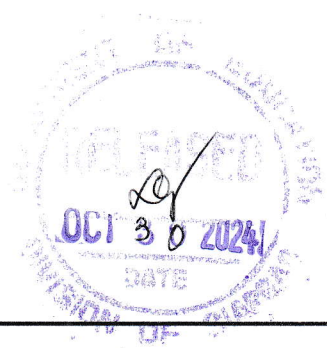




Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
CARAGA REGION  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF SIARGAO**



DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 10-279 s. 2024

**STANDARD PROTOCOL FOR THE USE OF CELLPHONES AND OTHER GADGETS IN CLASSROOMS**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent  
SGOD Chief  
CID Chief  
PSDS  
Elementary School Heads/School Principal  
Secondary School Heads/School Principal  
All other concerned/This Division

1. The primary goal of this protocol is to balance the educational advantages of cellphones and other gadgets with the need for a focused and engaging learning environment. By regulating cellphone use, we aim to minimize distractions while still embracing the potential of technology as a learning tool.
2. **Research Insight:** According to research by Lukes (2022), while mobile phones can be effective tools for learning, they also pose risks, including distractions, cyberbullying, and challenges in maintaining classroom discipline. Lukes emphasizes the importance of developing policies that balance the educational benefits of technology with the need to minimize its potential negative impacts.

**Reference:** Lukes, D. (2022). *Weighing the Costs and Benefits of Cellphones in Schools*. Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**2.1. Advantages of Mobile Device to Learners:**

- **Access to Information:** Instant access to information and educational resources.
- **Learning Apps:** Utilization of educational applications that can enhance learning.
- **Communication:** Easy communication with peers and educators for collaborative learning.
- **Organization:** Tools for scheduling and reminders that help manage academic responsibilities.



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
CARAGA REGION  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF SIARGAO**

- **Academic Performance** (Compra, A. 2018): Encourages learners' participation. This has made education more convenient and efficient than ever.

**2.2. Disadvantages of Cellphones to Learners:**

- **Distractions:** Potential distractions from non-educational content and social media.
  - **Dependency:** Over-reliance on technology which may hinder the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
  - **Cyberbullying:** Increased risk of exposure to cyberbullying and other online risks.
  - **Privacy Concerns:** Challenges in maintaining privacy and managing digital footprints.
  - **Health Effects:** Too much use of mobile devices can negatively impact students' health by causing eye strain, sleep disturbances, mental health issues, reduced physical activity, and decreased attention spans.
  - **Academic Performance:** The main cause of learners' failure (Rasam, 2013) and cheating, particularly during examinations (Betts, 2016). Learners used photographs of exams.
3. In light of the disadvantages associated with cellphone use, such as health risks, distractions, and negative impacts on academic performance, school officials and heads are strongly encouraged to develop and implement tailored strategies within their schools. These strategies should aim to minimize or regulate cellphone use among learners, ensuring that technology supports rather than hinders their education.
4. The following measures are suggested as recommended mechanisms to be implemented in schools or classrooms, pending agreement by the entire school management, including teachers and parents.
- a. **Designated Cellphone-Free Zones:**
    - **Rationale:** To create an environment free from digital distractions, enabling better focus and participation.
    - **Advantages:** Enhances attention during lectures and promotes student engagement.
    - **Disadvantages:** May limit immediate access to digital learning tools.
  - b. **Silent Mode or Turn Off:**
    - **Rationale:** Prevents interruptions caused by ringtones and notifications during class.
    - **Advantages:** Promotes a respectful and interruption-free learning space.
    - **Disadvantages:** Could delay emergency communication.





Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
CARAGA REGION  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF SIARGAO**

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**c. Exceptions for Educational Purposes:**

- **Rationale:** Recognizes the value of cellphones as educational resources when used appropriately.
- **Advantages:** Encourages the integration of technology in learning.
- **Disadvantages:** Requires monitoring to ensure compliance with educational intent.

**d. Break Time Usage:**

- **Rationale:** Provides a balanced approach, allowing students personal time with their devices.
- **Advantages:** Respects personal freedom and provides a mental break.
- **Disadvantages:** Might lead to overuse and difficulty transitioning back to academic tasks.

**e. Consequences for Violations:**

- **Rationale:** Establishes clear expectations and accountability for cellphone use.
- **Advantages:** Deters misuse and maintains order in the classroom.
- **Disadvantages:** May be perceived as punitive if not applied consistently and fairly.

**f. Educational Sessions on Distractions:**

- **Rationale:** Educates students on the impact of distractions on their academic performance.
- **Advantages:** Raises awareness and promotes self-regulation.
- **Disadvantages:** Requires time and resources that could be used for academic content.

**g. Instructor Discretion:**

- **Rationale:** Allows flexibility for instructors to tailor cellphone use to the lesson's needs.
- **Advantages:** Adapts to different teaching styles and subject matter.
- **Disadvantages:** May lead to inconsistency across classes.

**h. Supreme Government Officers Involvement:**

- **Rationale:** Fosters a community of accountability and mutual respect among students.
- **Advantages:** Encourages students to take collective responsibility.
- **Disadvantages:** Could create tension between peers if not managed with sensitivity.

**i. Parental Involvement:**

- **Rationale:** Engages parents in supporting the policy and reinforcing responsible use at home.



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
CARAGA REGION  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF SIARGAO**

- o **Advantages:** Extends the policy's influence beyond the classroom.
  - o **Disadvantages:** Relies on parental cooperation, which may vary.
- j. **Regular Policy Reviews** *(To be considered in their school policy & LRP):*
- o **Rationale:** Ensures the policy remains effective and relevant in the face of evolving technology.
  - o **Advantages:** Allows for continuous improvement based on feedback.
  - o **Disadvantages:** May require frequent adjustments, leading to confusion.
5. All teachers handling health and health related subjects across all levels (Elementary and Secondary) are required to incorporate discussions into their lessons that discourage the excessive or inappropriate use of mobile devices. These discussions should emphasize the importance of responsible digital habits, the potential health impacts of overuse, and the academic consequences associated with misuse.
6. For further details, please contact **JOE PETE G. TIU, RN**- Division Nurse In-charge for School Mental Health Program at cellphone No. **09338239361**
7. Immediate and wide dissemination of this memorandum is desired.

  
**KAREN L. GALANIDA, PhD, CESO V**  
Schools Division Superintendent

Reference: As stated

Encl's: NONE

To be indicated in the **PERPETUAL INDEX**  
Under the following subjects:

CELLPHONE/GADGET USAGE

STANDARD PROTOCOL

jpt