

# **Memo to the Okemos Public Schools Board of Education: Proposed Recommendation & Changes for an Okemos Public Schools District Student/Parent Handbook 2026-2027**

The OPS instructional leadership team has reviewed the District K-12 Handbook and the following items are being presented as additions/deletions/revisions:

- **Dual Enrollment (p. 9-10)**
  - **ADDITION:** Reflects language from the Academic Handbook, but added to the Student and Family Handbook for reinforcement of Dual Enrollment policy and practice
  
- **Use of Personal Electronic Devices (p. 21)**
  - **ADDITION:** Reference to Michigan cell phone legislation (SB 495, HB 4141)
  - **DELETION** - Removing language allowing use of PED with building administrator permission for an aligned district approach and to reflect Michigan law
  
- **Field Trips (p. 35)**
  - **ADDITION:** Reference of the student authorization response within PowerSchool as district permission for field trip/district transportation participation
  
- **Transportation - Bus Riders (p. 40)**
  - **REVISION:** Students are to be at the bus stop 10 minutes (instead of 5) prior to bus arrival time
  
- **Tardies/Late Arrivals - Elementary (p. 52)**
  - **ADDITION:** Language for students to be signed in to school by a parent/guardian when arriving late to support safety and assure students remain accounted for at the elementary level
  
- **Safe Storage Law (p. 59-60)**
  - **REVISION** - Updated “Secure” to “Safe” for accurate language and include additional information relating to Michigan firearms/storage laws
  
- **Acceptable Use Policy - Artificial Intelligence (p. 61)**
  - **ADDITION** - Language and expectations related to safe and appropriate use of AI
  
- **Personal Electronic Devices (p. 65-66)**
  - **ADDITIONS** - Clarification of policy relating to the use of personally owned devices and district network implications
  - **DELETION** - Removing language allowing use of PED with teacher permission for an aligned and safe/secure district approach
  
- **Vape Sensors (p. 16)**
  - **ADDITIONS** - Update to reflect sensors being added to school facilities.

- **Absence Notification (p. 52)**
  - **REVISION** - Time adjusted to support families and offer a more equitable approach.
  
- **Make-Up Work (p. 53)**
  - **REVISION** - Clarification to reference potential impact for unexcused absences rather than excused

**Additional Notes:** The handbook was reviewed for formatting requirements and corrections were made as necessary. Changes to personnel, event dates, and grammar (without altering content) were also updated.