



April 12, 2024

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to let you know that the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order has been [amended](#), effective July 1, 2024. This order sets out the standards that boards of education must meet in establishing student codes of conduct for their respective districts. The amendments require all boards of education to include one or more statements in their codes of conduct about restricting the use of personal digital devices at school, to promote focused learning environments and online safety.

On January 26, 2024, Premier David Eby and Minister Rachna Singh announced cell phone restrictions in schools as one of three important actions to keep kids and young people safe. The Ministry of Education and Child Care engaged with education and Indigenous partners to determine the mechanism for the restrictions and to seek input on implementation supports.

I am sharing with you today:

- The ministerial order that amended the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order, effective July 1, 2024; and
- A [Support Guide](#), which provides supporting information relating to the changes to the order.

I understand that many districts already address personal digital devices use in schools, either at the district level and/or at the school level. The goal of establishing provincial consistency in restricting personal digital devices use in schools is to ensure that all students in BC are safe from online harms and are focused on their learning with fewer distractions. Districts are offered some flexibility to develop an approach to restrict personal digital devices use in classrooms that best fits the school community's needs.

Personal digital devices can be an important learning tool as well as a support for students with diverse needs, and as such we have embedded language to address accessibility, equity, and accommodations within the Order and the Support Guide.

Please update your Codes of Conduct to align with the amended Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order by July 1, 2024, and submit them through email to [ecc.strategicpriorities@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ecc.strategicpriorities@gov.bc.ca) by August 15, 2024. In the meantime, should you have questions, please contact Meghan Day, Executive Director, Equity and Strategic Priorities, by email at [Meghan.Day@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Meghan.Day@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.A. Zacharuk". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christina Zacharuk  
Deputy Minister