

ZBE 2025-26 Student Handbook Changes

The following changes to Zion Benton East High School student handbook are recommended following discussions and appropriate input from parents, staff, and administration. The student handbooks are Board policy and therefore the following changes require School Board approval.

(Note: colored text is new or modified verbiage; strikethrough indicates deleted verbiage.)

Collections

Students will not be permitted to participate in certain extra-curricular activities, such as dances, unless past due fees are paid. ~~Students' official transcripts will be withheld until all fees have been paid. However, an unofficial transcript can be provided.~~

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Plagiarism is unacceptable in the academic program of Zion-Benton East High School. Plagiarism is defined by Zion-Benton East High School as using the written work or ideas of another student, author, ~~or~~ website, **or Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, and representing it as one's own. Plagiarism is also defined as presenting a paper or presentation prepared by another student or agency. Zion-Benton East High School requires a clear acknowledgment of sources.

ID CARDS

1. ~~Students MUST present a valid student ID daily upon entry to the school building. If a student does not have their ID, they must obtain a temporary ID for entry to the building and carry the temp for the entire day. The school ID will be needed for morning entry, lunch, bus riding, and extracurricular / athletic events. They MUST present their School ID at the request of any school official or staff member. Students **MUST** always wear a current Zion-Benton East ID card on a lanyard, which is to be worn around the neck and not tied to book bags. IDs (regular and temporary) will be visible as soon as a student enters the building and must only be worn on the front chest of the top layer of clothing. If a student forgets their ID, they must go immediately to the Zion-Benton East Office to get a temporary ID.~~

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE POLICY

It is recommended that items of value be left at home. If students choose to bring these items to school, it is their responsibility to keep the item secure, as the district will not be responsible. Students who bring cell phones into classrooms will be directed to store their device in a designated location for the duration of the instructional period, in adherence to the policy as stated above.

During instructional time, students are not permitted to use cell phones. Instructional time is defined as any time designated for teaching, learning, assessment, or enrichment activities. All cell phones must be silenced and stored out of sight for the entire duration of each instructional period.

Headsets (earbuds, headphones, etc), smartwatches, and other ancillary electronic devices may not be used to connect to personal cell phones during instructional time as defined above. Headsets MAY be used to connect to school-issued devices during instructional time if and only if the classroom teacher explicitly gives permission.

~~Students are extended the privilege of possessing personal electronic devices, e.g., cell phones, while on school grounds. These devices must be set on silent. Responsible use of personal electronic devices such as cell phones is allowed with teacher permission for relevant educational activities within the classroom.~~

Students who violate the Personal Electronic Device Policy as stated above will be asked by the classroom teacher to put their device in the designated location for electronic devices for the duration remainder of the instructional period. Repeated classroom electronic device violations, or refusal to comply with staff directives regarding electronic devices, will result in students being sent to the Main Office to turn in their device, students will receive a disciplinary referral, and teachers will contact parent(s).

~~Students who violate the Personal Electronic Device Use Policy as stated above do not have permission from their teachers to use their electronic devices during classroom time will be sent to the Main Office to turn in their device. Teachers will follow up with a referral or email to the Main Office. Consequences for violation of the Personal Electronic Device Use Policy are as follows: Failure to follow the above will result in the following consequences:~~

Main Office Action Items:

1st Offense

~~May result in e~~Confiscation of device for remainder of day, warning and call to Parent

2nd Offense

Confiscation of device for remainder of day, After School Detention (ASD), and call to Parent

~~May result in confiscation, Parent/Guardian pick-up and ASD~~

3rd Offense

Confiscation of device for remainder of day, In-School Detention (ISD), and Parent Conference

4th+ Offense(s)

Confiscation of device, Suspension Pending Conference, and Parent must come in to sign for the phone.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Students may not wear any head coverings that obstructs the face, prevents one from being identified or poses a safety threat. Students must be recognizable at all times. ~~Head coverings will not be worn in the building and should be in the student's locker upon arrival to school. No sunglasses, or full face coverings (full face masks, ex: ski masks or gaiters, full face paint, etc.). No hoods/hoodies, hats, doo rags, or other forms of head cover, hair picks or combs are allowed. Scarves may be worn as long as some of the hair is showing. Students must be recognizable at all times.~~