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Dear Families,

April 7, 2026

As you may be aware, Rhode Island General Law §16-21-43 requires all public school districts to implement a policy on the use of personal electronic devices (PEDs) such as cell phones, smartwatches, and earbuds, on school grounds and during school-sponsored activities, effective August 1, 2026. The purpose of this law is to reduce distractions, maintain a strong focus on learning, and protect the privacy and safety of students and staff.

As part of this process, schools districts are required to:

- Develop a written policy that limits student access to devices during the school day, with exceptions for students with documented needs
- Consult with staff, families, and students in developing the policy
- Enforce the policy consistently to minimize conflict
- Submit the finalized policy to the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

As we begin this work at Tiverton High School, there are a few key decisions we are carefully considering:

- How we define the “school day” for device use expectations (e.g., whether restrictions apply from the start to the end of the day, or only during instructional/class time)
- How student devices are managed during the day, including options such as locked pouches, student-managed storage, or limited access approaches

School districts across Rhode Island have taken different approaches in these areas, and it is important that we develop a plan that reflects our community’s values while ensuring clarity, consistency, and enforceability.

**We are asking for your input.** Your feedback will play an important role in shaping a policy that supports student learning while being practical and respectful of student needs.

- Please take a few minutes to complete our survey: [\[Click Survey Link Here\]](#). The survey is open to students, families, teachers, and other community members, and we encourage you to share your perspective.
- Also, please consider attending a focus group session hosted by the Tiverton High School’s School Improvement Team on Thursday, April 30, 6:00 PM in the Tiverton High School Library. The meeting is open to high school students and families, and we encourage you to attend and share your thoughts.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work together to create a positive and focused learning environment for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christopher Haskins'.

Christopher Haskins  
Superintendent

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