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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478-988-6390 ext. 0, Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net

Cell Phones School Policy

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County Board of Education approved a revised policy concerning cell phones at school during the monthly meeting held Oct. 18, 2011. Policy JCDAF, Use of Electronic Devices by Students, states:

Cell phones may not be in use or visible at schools during the school day or on the school bus during transportation to and from the school. The school day is defined as the period between the time students are required to be present and their dismissal. This time is set based on the grade configuration of the school - elementary, middle or high. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Houston County schools will not be responsible for lost or stolen personal communication or personal electronic devices.

“Simply put, students may have cell phones while at school, but they must be turned off and put away during the school day, to include while riding the bus,” commented Linda Horne, Assistant Superintendent for School Operations. “They may not be visible, such as clipped to a belt or backpack, but may be carried in a purse or pocket.”

She added, “During after school activities, we realize that students may need to call their parents and now they may do so. We want our parents and students to clearly understand, though, that phones ringing or buzzing during the school day will not be allowed. If a cell phone goes off during the school day, the student will face consequences.”

Anyone who has questions about this policy may contact their school or Horne at the central office at 478-988-6200, ext. 10512.

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