

THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
10910 Clarksville Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 210343

Circular No. 12  
Series 2021-2022

September 24, 2021

Division of Operations

Cell Phone Use While Driving

TO: All Staff

FROM: Scott W. Washington  
Chief Operating Officer

The Howard County Public School System community is committed to promoting safety and wellness for its children and employees. The risk associated with the distraction created by using a cell phone while driving is well documented. Please be mindful that the use of any cell phone, including hands-free devices, while driving an HCPSS-owned vehicle or operating a personal vehicle while on school system business is prohibited.

A state law prohibiting the use of a hand-held cell phone while driving became effective on October 1, 2010. The law also bans the use of cell phones while driving for school bus drivers, those under 18, and adults who hold learner's permits.

If it is necessary to make an emergency call while driving, the employee must stop the vehicle in a safe place on the side of the road or in a parking area to make the call. Traffic violations, including the use of cell phones while driving, are the responsibility of the employee and violations may subject an employee to disciplinary action per Board policy.

If you have questions regarding the information in this circular, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Safety and Security at 410-313-6739.

SWW/PvG/vw