

FAQ: Anson County Schools - HB 959 & Use of Wireless Communication Devices Policy

- 1. What is HB 959, and when does it take effect?**

HB 959 is a new North Carolina law that focuses on regulating the use of wireless communication devices in schools and promoting safe, distraction-free learning environments. It takes effect **January 1, 2026**.
- 2. What are considered Wireless Communication Devices?**

Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way communication devices, wireless earbuds/headphones, tablets, and similar devices.
- 3. Does Anson County Schools already have a wireless communication device policy?**

Yes. Our **board-approved** [Policy 4318](#) states that students are permitted to possess such devices on school property so long as the devices are not activated, used, displayed, or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel.
- 4. Are there any changes to the current policy right now?**

No. There are **no changes** to our cell phone policy at this time. Policies will be reviewed and updated as needed before the January 2026 deadline. We are working closely with state education policy advisors and school governance experts to ensure our policies remain aligned with the law before the January 2026 deadline. If changes are needed, we will share them with families.
- 5. What are the current rules for elementary and middle school students?**

Wireless communication devices as defined above **shall not be** activated, used, displayed, or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel **from the moment students step onto campus until the end of the school day**. In addition, elementary students who participate in after-school care programs are prohibited from using wireless communication devices during such programs.
- 6. What are the current rules for high school students?**

Students may have devices out **before and after school**, as well as **during lunch in the cafeteria**. Devices must be off and out of sight during instructional time unless authorized by a teacher or administrator.
- 7. Are there exceptions for medical or learning needs?**

Yes. This policy does not override accommodations in a **504 Plan, IEP, or Health Plan**.
- 8. Can students have their phones during after-school extracurricular activities?**

Yes, with the approval from the coach/sponsor.
- 9. Can students use wireless communication devices on school buses?**

Use of wireless communication devices is generally allowed on school buses before and after school; however, it may be prohibited when noise from such devices interferes with the safe operation of the bus.
- 10. What happens if a student uses their device without permission?**

School employees may immediately confiscate any wireless communication devices that are on, used, displayed, or visible in violation of this policy. Please refer to [Policy 4318](#) for further information.
- 11. How should parents help their children follow this policy?**

We encourage parents and guardians to talk with their children about the policy and the upcoming changes in state law. Understanding expectations and reasons behind the rules will help students have a smooth and positive school experience.
- 12. Who can I contact with questions?**

Reach out to your child’s school directly or call **704-694-4417**.



Anson Bearcats

VS



Pender High School

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025, 7:30 P.M.

Anson High School Stadium


MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION NIGHT

★ **GOLD STAR** ★

FOOTBALL GAME

The Anson County School District is proud and honored to recognize our military and first responders during the Friday, September 26 Varsity Football Game! This is also our Gold Star Football Game where we honor and remember local military heroes and their families. **FREE** Admission into the game for all military service members, veterans and first responders with ID. Please enter at the handicap accessible gate located directly behind the baseball center field. Individual recognition will be given during the game.





Anson County School District

Athletic Event Safety Protocol

Endorsed/Effective 06.26.2023

Athletic Event Safety Protocol
ANSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (ACSD)

ACSD Families: We are asking for your continued support in helping us ensure that all Anson County Schools’ athletic events remain safe and secure for everyone. We will be continue to strengthen our security procedures at all home athletic events across the district. These enhanced measures are part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe environment for our students, staff, families, and community members.

Protocol
ENDORSED/EFFECTIVE 06.26.23

- All spectators will be required to wear an event wristband after successfully completing security entrance procedures. This wristband must be worn at all times while on school grounds during the event.
- Any elementary or middle school student(s) attending a high school event should be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older.
- All spectators are expected to be seated during the athletic event, except for trips to the concession stands or restrooms.
- Spectators should not congregate in walkways, fence lines or near bathrooms and concession stands.
- Law enforcement and ACSD staff will be on site to address any potential disruptions that may occur.
- Entrance procedures may include the use of walk-through or handheld metal detectors.
- Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:
 - Weapons (including pocket knives), vapes, tobacco products, lighters, etc...
 - There will be no re-entry to any contest after exiting the athletic facility.

The Anson County School District reserves the right to deny entry to any athletic event for any person who fails to comply with these procedures.

Bag Procedures

Fans are encouraged not to bring any type of bags inside any Anson County Schools’ athletic facilities. However, the following bags are permitted:


- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12” x 6” x 12”
- Small clutch bags, with or without a handle or strap, that do not exceed 4.5” x 6.5” (approximately the size of a hand)
- An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection. Diaper bags are permitted as long as the child is in attendance.
- Any bag brought to the athletic event may be subject to search prior to entry into the athletic facility.

Thank you for your cooperation and support of ACSD Athletics! We appreciate your cooperation and support of ACSD Athletics. Thank you for helping us create a safe and enjoyable experience for all!

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- LES (Lilesville Elementary School)**
- **August 21** – Open House, 2:00–6:00 pm
 - **September 4** – School Improvement Team Meeting, at 3:00 pm
 - **September 11** – PTO Meeting, 5:30 pm
 - **September 11** – Title I Right to Know Meeting / Curriculum Night, 6:00 pm
 - **September 22** – Mid-Term Progress Reports
 - **September 24** – Early Release / Staff PD, 12:30 pm
 - **October 1** – Fall Pictures
 - **October 17–24** – Scholastic Book Fair
 - **October 20** – Parent–Teacher Conference Day / Non-student day
 - **October 24** – Report Card Release
- MES (Morven Elementary School)**
- **August 21** – Open House
 - **September 8** – Title I / PTO Meeting, 5:00 pm
 - **September 8** – Grits with a Guardian
 - **October 9** – Fall Pictures
 - **October 19–23** – Book Fair
 - **October 20** – Parent–Teacher Conference
 - **November 11** – Veterans Day
 - **November 17** – SIT Meeting, 2:45 pm
 - **November 19** – Fall Picture Make-ups
 - **November 25** – Early Release, 12:30 pm
 - **December 4** – Early Release, 12:30 pm / Parade
 - **December 18** – PTO / Holiday Program, 5:00 pm
 - **December 19** – Early Release, 12:30 pm

- ACEC (Anson Early College)**
- **August 15** – First Day of Classes at SPCC
 - **August 22** – Make-Up Senior Pictures, 9:00 am
 - **August 27** – SPCC Involvement Fair & ACEC Club Day during Lunches
 - **September 8** – School Improvement Team Meets 3:30 pm
 - **September 11** – CFNC Financial Aid Night
 - **September 15–19** – Start with Hello Week
 - **September 16** – PTO Meeting, 5:00 pm
 - **September 24** – Early Release / Staff Professional Development
 - **October 6** – School Improvement Team Meeting, 3:30 pm
 - **October 13–14** – SPCC Fall Break
 - **October 17** – End of First 9 Weeks
 - **October 20–24** – Free College Application Week
 - **October 20** – Parent–Teacher Conferences
 - **October 21** – Appetizers and Applications Event for Students
 - **October 24** – Fall Picture Day
 - **October 27–31** – Red Ribbon Week
 - **October 30** – First 9 Weeks Honor Roll Celebration for Students
 - **November 3** – School Improvement Team Meeting, at 3:30 pm
 - **November 4** – PTO Meeting, 5:00 pm
 - **November 10–14** – Career Development Week
 - **November 20** – College Panel Event for Students & Parents, 5:30 pm
 - **December 1** – School Improvement Team Meeting, at 3:30 pm
 - **December 16** – End of Semester for SPCC Classes
 - **December 19** – End of Second 9 Weeks / Early Release

- PPES (Peachland-Polkton Elementary School)**
- **September 9** – Curriculum Night, 6:00 pm
 - **October 1** – Fall Pictures
 - **November 18** – Title I Parent Involvement Night & Terrific Kid Celebration, 6:00 pm
- WPS (Wadesboro Primary School)**
- **September 18** – PTO Meeting, 5:00–5:30 pm
 - **September 18** – Curriculum Night, 5:30–6:30 pm
 - **September 24** – Early Release for Students
 - **September 26** – Fall Pictures
 - **October 20** – Parent–Teacher Conferences
 - **December 2** – Deck the Halls Event, 5:30–6:30 pm
- AMS (Anson Middle School)**
- PTO Meetings** (5:30 pm at AMS Media Center):
- **September 18, 2025**
 - **October 16, 2025**
 - **November 20, 2025**
 - **December 18, 2025**
 - **January 15, 2026**
 - **February 19, 2026**
 - **March 19, 2026**
 - **April 16, 2026**
 - **May TBD**
- 

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Anson County Schools’ employment opportunities can be found at www.ansonschools.org on the homepage under the “Jobs” tab.