

Use of Internet-Enabled Devices

Purpose

To promote an optimal learning environment by minimizing distractions during the school day, enhancing student focus, improving mental health, and supporting academic success - in alignment with Education Law § 2803 and NYS Governor Kathy Hochul's new "bell-to-bell" ban effective for the 2025–2026 school year.

Scope

Applies to all students in grades K -12 and covers most school grounds (i.e. classrooms, auditorium, gyms, cafeteria, hallways, athletic fields, playgrounds, and parking lots) during the entire school day, including instructional and non-instructional periods (e.g., homeroom, passing time, recess, lunch, and study halls). The only exception is school buses.

Definitions

- **Internet-Enabled Devices:** Smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, earbuds or any device that can access the internet or social media.
- **Simple Phones:** Non-internet capable cell phones that can send text messages and voice calls.
- **School-Issued Devices:** Devices like laptops or tablets (i.e., iPads) provided by the district for instructional use.

General Rule

Students are prohibited from carrying, using, or displaying personal internet-enabled devices on school grounds at any time during the school day—from the first bell to dismissal—unless expressly permitted by this policy.

Exceptions

Internet-enabled devices are permitted:

1. When required to access individualized health plans (e.g., glucose monitors, hearing aids).
2. Under an approved IEP or Section 504 plan that specifies device usage.
3. For translation or accessibility services essential to learning.
4. On a case-by-case basis with written approval from building administration due to specific needs.
5. When officially provided and used under the supervision of school staff for instructional purposes.

Storage of Devices

Students in grades 6 - 12 enter their first period classroom, they will:

1. Turn their device(s) off.
2. Place their personal electronic device(s) (i.e. smart device, smartwatch, earbuds, etc) inside a designated, labeled shelf inside of a container that is locked in the main office.
3. Be responsible for picking up their device(s) during homeroom.
*Students arriving late or leaving early will put their personal electronic devices (i.e. device, smartwatch, earbuds, etc) inside a designated container in the Main Office.

Student Responsibilities

- Devices must be turned off and securely stored upon arrival.
- Students are responsible for their devices; theft, loss, or damage are not the district's responsibility.
- Unauthorized use will result in confiscation for the remainder of the school day and communication with parent/guardian. A progressive disciplinary action as described in the "Student Handbook" will be followed.

Parent-School Communication

- Parents should contact the school office for urgent communications during school hours.
- Students may use school phones or approved administrative channels for essential calls/emails.
- The district published procedures for parent-student contact in the FAQ section of the online "Student Handbook"

Enforcement & Discipline

- Violation of this policy is a disciplinary offense as outlined in the "Student Handbook"
- Device use alone does not trigger suspension unless paired with other disciplinary infractions .
- Progressive discipline applies, including warnings, device holding, parent conferences, and repeat offenses escalating procedures.

Stakeholder Engagement

This policy was developed with input from students, parents, teachers, support staff, and school administrators, per statutory requirements

Annual Review & Reporting

- The policy shall be reviewed annually in June.
- The district will report to the Board of Education on policy enforcement, exceptions applied, and any incident data collected.

Implementation Timeline

- Policy adoption deadline: August 18, 2025.
- Full enforcement begins with the 2025–2026 academic year, starting September 2025.

Ref:

- NYS Education Law §2803
 - Price v. New York City Board of Education, 16 Misc.3d 543 (2007)
 - NYSED: Prohibition of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices in NYS Assessments
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