

Use of Internet-Enabled Devices and other Electronic Devices

This policy has been established, with input from stakeholders, to ensure compliance with Section 2803 of the New York State Education Law and to promote a safe and distraction-free learning environment for all students.

Definitions:

- **Internet-Enabled Devices** means and includes, but is not limited to, smartphones, tablets, smartwatches (and other wearable devices), or other devices that currently exist or may exist in the future that are capable of connecting to the Internet and enabling the user to access content online. It does not include non-Internet-enabled devices which cannot connect to the Internet or enable the user to access content on the Internet or Internet-enabled devices supplied by the District or BOCES that are used for an educational purpose.
- **School Day** means the entirety of every instructional day as required by Section 3604(7) of the Education Law. This includes all of the student's instructional and noninstructional time, such as homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and time between classes, but does not extend beyond the academic school day.
- **School Grounds** means in or on, or within any building, structure, athletic field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of any school in the District or a BOCES facility.

General Policy Statement:

Except as otherwise specified in this policy, the use of Internet-enabled devices by students is strictly prohibited during the school day anywhere on school grounds.

Device Storage Guidelines:

- **Grades PreK through 5:** Internet-enabled devices and other electronic devices must be turned off and stored in a storage device or area, as determined by the District.
- **Grades 6 through 12:** Internet-enabled devices must be turned off and stored in locked pouches or areas. Devices must be turned off and out-of-sight during the school day while on school district property.

Exceptions:

Students may use Internet-enabled devices during the school day for the following non-instructional purposes as permitted in Section 2803:

- When necessary for the management of a student's documented healthcare needs, upon review of the documentation and approval by the District Medical Director;
- In the event of an emergency, as determined by the School Administration;
- For translation services through District approved programs/software, if required by ENL students as determined by the District;
- On a case-by-case basis with prior District approval, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker or school counselor, for communication regarding caregiving responsibilities where, for example, a student serves as a caregiver routinely responsible for a family member's care and well-being;
- When otherwise required by law, such as when such use is required as a necessary accommodation in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan.

If an exception has been granted, personal devices may only be used by the student granted the exception and only for the purposes outlined in the exception, and the device must be silenced and stored when not in use.

Parent/Guardian and Student Communication During the School Day:

Parents/Guardians who need to contact their child during the school day may do so by contacting the School's Main Office by telephone or email to relay an urgent message to a student during the school day. They may also contact the following personnel by telephone or email:

- Principal
- Assistant Principal
- School Counselor
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- School Nurse

In the event of a personal emergency, students may request access to a school telephone to contact their parent/guardian during the school day.

The District emergency contact information will be published on the District website and updated annually.

Disciplinary Considerations

The Code of Conduct will include disciplinary infractions related to possession and use of Internet-enabled devices. A student will not be suspended solely for accessing an Internet-enabled device in violation of this policy. Students may, however, be suspended for the inappropriate use of such devices (such as threatening, vulgar or sexual messages), the use of these devices as weapons, or for violation of the District's Acceptable Use Policy.

The Board of Education prohibits the use of recording functions and capabilities of Internet-enabled devices and other electronic devices by students on school property, including on a school bus, except with prior permission from an administrator or other staff member.

If a student uses an Internet-enabled device in violation of this policy, the authorized staff member will confiscate the device and return it to the student at the end of the academic day and notify the parent/guardian of the violation. The objective is to help students develop self-regulation and make responsible decisions that support their learning and the learning of others.

If a student continues to violate this policy, the student will be considered as insubordinate and subject to consequences which may include detention, loss of privileges (such as extracurricular activities, sports, participation in dances, the prom, and other privilege events) and suspension from school, in accordance with law and the District Code of Conduct. If a student refuses to hand over the device to the authorized staff member, there will be consequences in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Disciplinary measures will be applied fairly and equitably across student demographics.

Examination Security:

In order to ensure examination security, students may not have a cell phone or other Internet-enabled device or electronic technology or wear headphones during Regents Examinations, and other state examinations, either in the room where the test is administered or while on a supervised break and until the examination has been completed, handed in and the student has left the examination room. If any such device or related technology is used for any reason during a Regents Examination, or other state examination and under any circumstances in violation of this Policy, the student's examination may be invalidated, as required by law, and no score will be calculated for the student.^a

Privacy

The Board of Education prohibits any non-authorized form of photography, tape recording or video recording of any individual on school property or in school facilities without that individual's knowledge, as well as the dissemination of any photograph or recording without the individual's permission. In no event will any individual take photographs or make a recording in a zone where an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy, including but not limited to locker rooms, lavatories, nurse's office. In addition, the Board prohibits possessing, viewing, sending or sharing pictures or text having sexual content ("sexting") in school or at school activities, or from off-campus sites and which are received at school or school activities, or from and to off-campus sites if it causes a disruption in school. A student who violates this policy will be subject to discipline in accordance with law and the District Code of Conduct.

^a Section 225 of the Education Law makes fraud in examinations, such as obtaining aid from or giving aid to another person during a Regents Examination, a misdemeanor.

Responsibility

The decision to bring Internet-enabled devices and other electronic devices to school or school sponsored events rests with the individual student and their parents/guardians, and therefore the responsibility for such devices rests solely with the individual student. The School District discourages bringing such devices to school. The School District assumes no responsibility or liability whatsoever in the event that an electronic device of any type is damaged, misplaced or stolen during the school day, when on school property or when in attendance at a school sponsored event, whether on or off of school property. The School District further assumes no responsibility or liability for any communication bill associated with the authorized or unauthorized use of said devices.

Annual Reporting Requirement

Beginning September 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the District will publish a report, including:

- The number of disciplinary actions issued for violations of this policy
- Non-identifiable demographic data associated with those incidents
- An analysis of potential disparities in enforcement
- A corrective action plan if significant disparities are identified

Policy Publication

This policy will be made available on the District's website and distributed annually and/or digitally accessible to students, staff, and families no later than August 1st prior to the start of each school year.