

Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

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Purpose ~ Passion ~ Proficiency

BELL TO BELL NO INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICE POLICY DISTRACTION FREE

In May 2025, **a New York State Law** (Section 2803) was enacted that prohibits students from using non-school issued internet-enabled devices during the school day while on school grounds. The law applies to all school districts, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, and charter schools, including The Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

All students must place their internet enabled device(s) in a yonder pouch upon entry into the school. All internet enable devices must be stored away

Definitions:

Internet-enabled device(s): smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, iPad or other devices capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the use to access content on the internet, including social media applications, including, without limitation, computing devices such as laptops, iPad and tablets; portable music and entertainment devices such as iPod and gaming consoles.

Non-internet enabled device(s): cellular phone or other communication device not capable of connecting to the internet or enabling the student to access the internet.

Parent: a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) or person(s) in any parental or custodial relationship to the student, or any individual designated by the parent to act in loco parentis

School Day: The entirety of the instructional day (including all non-instructional time during the school day such as homeroom period, lunch, recess, study halls, afterschool, enrichments, sports indoors and passing time).

School Grounds: All building structures, athletic playing fields, playgrounds or land contained within the real property boundary line of the school.

Students shall not use internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds unless such use is subject to an exception set forth in this policy. This policy does not preclude the use of (i) non-internet-enabled devices; or (ii) internet-enabled devices supplied by the school for educational services that are used for an educational purpose.

Exceptions

1. If authorized by a teacher, principal or school for a specific educational purpose;
2. Where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare;
3. In the event of an emergency;
4. For translation services;
5. On a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school Leadership
6. Where required by law.

Students must be permitted to use an internet-enabled device where the use is documented on an: a) Individualized Education Program (IEP); or b) Section 504 Plan.

A parent may make a request under one of the above exceptions to the Building Principal. Any healthcare related exception must also include documentation from a healthcare professional affirming such need.

On-Site Storage of Internet-Enabled Devices Including Cell Phones

Students must store their Internet-enabled devices in designated on-site storage area(s) during the school day. All students at REACS will:

- Store cellphones in a yonder pouch and place inside a locker or cubby when they arrive at school
- At the end of the day or when leaving the premises at dismissal students will unlock the yonder with a designated staff member

The leadership team along with the Dean of culture will communicate the procedures for storing and retrieving devices, ensuring that students understand their responsibilities in using the on-site storage facilities provided.

Methods for Parents to Contact Students During the School Day

To accommodate necessary communication from parents, parents may use the following methods to contact their student during school hours while adhering to this policy:

Main office- 718-978-0075

Email- Info@reacschool.com

Class DOJO

Student Discipline for Accessing Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day

The District is prohibited from suspending a student solely for accessing internet-enabled devices but a violation will have consequences as per code of conduct

Security of Devices

REACS will exercise reasonable care to maintain the security of devices that are held by the School but cannot guarantee the devices will be secure. Rochdale Early shall not be responsible for any personal device that is lost, stolen or damaged during the School Day or at school-sponsored activities. Any lost, stolen or damaged personal device should be reported immediately to the Building Principal.

Posting and Translation of Policy

As required by law, this policy will be available in a clearly visible and accessible location on REACS website. Translations of the policy into the 12 most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in the state will be provided upon request by a student or parent.

Reporting and Mitigation Action Plan

Beginning September 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, REACS will publish an annual report on its website detailing enforcement of this policy during the prior school year.

Please complete below. This form must be returned to the school.

___ My child has a cellphone

___ My child does not have a cellphone

I understand the policy
NO USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY
BELL TO BELL

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Student Name _____ Class _____