

Students

SUBJECT: ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

The District consulted with local stakeholders including employee organizations representing each bargaining unit, parents, and students to develop this policy to prohibit the use of electronic devices by students during the school day on school grounds. This policy aims to ensure that students remain focused on their academic responsibilities throughout the school day, which includes all instructional and non-instructional periods such as homeroom, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- a) "Electronic Devices" shall include but not necessarily be limited to: cellular phones (both "smart phones" and call/text phones only), tablets, smartwatches, wired or wireless headphones and earbuds, walkie-talkies, personal digital assistants (PDA), pagers, laptops with two-way messaging, other hand-held computing devices (when such is being used as a communication device), and internet-connected accessories, e-readers, calculators, voice recorders, cameras, music devices and fitness trackers. This definition shall also include any new device developed for communicating via voice, text, or images/video. Excluded from this definition is any District-provided device for instructional purposes and District-issued cell phones for professional use.
- b) "School day" means the entirety of every instructional day as required by subdivision 7 of the Education Law Section 3604 during all instructional time and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.
- c) "School grounds" means in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a district elementary, intermediate, junior high, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a BOCES facility.

Students are generally prohibited from using electronic devices during the school day anywhere on school grounds.

However, students may be authorized to use an electronic device during the school day on school grounds:

- a) If authorized by a principal, or the Superintendent for a specific educational purpose;

- b) Where necessary for the management of a student's health care;
- c) In the event of an emergency;
- d) For translation services;
- e) Where required by law.

Students must be permitted to use an electronic device where the use is included in the student's:

- a) Individualized Education Program (IEP); or
- b) Section 504 Plan.
- c) In the event of an emergency;
- d) For translation services;
- e) Where required by law.

Students must be permitted to use an electronic device where the use is included in the student's:

- a) Individualized Education Program (IEP); or
- b) Section 504 Plan.

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

Students must store their electronic devices in designated on-site storage areas during the school day. On-site storage areas may include, but are not limited to, student lockers, designated storage bins, cubbies in classrooms, or secure storage areas in the school's main office. The designated on-site storage areas must be easily accessible to students and provide adequate security to ensure the safekeeping of the student's devices. The District 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, parents or persons in parental relation may use the following methods to contact their student during school hours while adhering to this policy:

- a) School Office Phone: Parents or persons in parental relation may call the school's main office, and the office staff can relay messages to the student or call the student to the office to speak with their parent or person in parental relation.
- b) Classroom Intercom System: In case of an emergency, the school's main office can use the classroom intercom system to notify students directly or ask them to come to the office.
- c) Written Notes: Parents or persons in parental relation can drop off written notes at the school's main office, which can then be delivered to the student by school staff.

Parents and persons in parental relation will be notified in writing of the methods that are available for contacting their student during school hours upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year.

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

The District is prohibited from suspending a student solely for accessing electronic devices in violation of this policy.

Posting and Translation of Policy

The District will post this policy in a clearly visible and accessible location on its 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 other persons in parental relation to a student.

Reporting and Mitigation Action Plan

Beginning September 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, the District will publish an annual report on its website detailing enforcement of this policy within the District in the prior school year. This report will include non-identifiable demographic data of students who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance and analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement of this policy. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, the report will include a mitigation action plan.

Education Law Section 2803

Adoption Date 7/14/25