

First Read- Policy 7317 - Student Use of Personal Technology - Distraction Free School Law

Key Points from the NYS Distraction-Free Schools Law (2025):

- **Personal internet-connected devices such as cell phones and smartwatches are prohibited for student use during the instructional day**, which includes classrooms, hallways, study halls, and lunch periods.
- **Exceptions are allowed only for documented educational purposes or medical needs** and must be approved by school personnel.
Schools must provide clear procedures for the secure storage of devices during the day and communicate them to students and families at the beginning of the school year.
- **School districts must consult with stakeholders before finalizing local policies**, meaning input is collected and considered, but the final decision rests with the district in alignment with state law.
- **Discipline for policy violations must be educational, equitable, and age-appropriate** — the law explicitly prohibits harsh or exclusionary discipline (such as suspension) for personal device use. Responses should focus on reteaching expectations and restoring a focused learning environment.

Feedback Form:

- Parents/guardian Pre-K -- 12
- Students in current grades, 8 -11
- Second Read/Final during July BOE meeting

