

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iODIcfe0OQ4>

# POLICY

2024

7316

1 of 2

Students

## **SUBJECT: USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

While students are permitted to bring certain electronic devices such as cell phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs) to school, they must, however, be kept out of sight and turned off during the hours of the student instructional day, except when permission is given by a teacher which requires prior approval from administration. A student who uses a cell phone or PDA in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline in accordance with the District Code of Conduct. In addition, any electronic device that is seen, heard or used during the school day, other than specified below, will be confiscated and a meeting with the student and his/her parent may be required prior to return of the device.

The Board of Education prohibits the use of electronic devices that may distract from or cause disruption to the educational process and/or that may be used as weapons. The Board of Education also prohibits the use of electronic devices with recording capabilities by students on school property, except for the purpose of photographing or recording public events (e.g., athletic events, plays, concerts, and award ceremonies).

# POLICY

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Students

## **Emergencies**

During health and safety emergencies, such as fire drills, lock downs and evacuations, no electronic devices may be used by students for the safety of students and staff. Devices may only be used as directed by teachers and staff to minimize risks, and prevent the spread of misinformation during emergency events.

## **Privacy**

The Board of Education prohibits any form of photography, 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 shall any student photograph or record in a zone where an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy,

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Students

## **SUBJECT: USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES (continued)**

including but not limited to locker rooms, lavatories, and Nurse's office. A student who violates this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with law and the District Code of Conduct.

### **Responsibility**

The decision to bring electronic devices to school or school sponsored events rests with the individual student and his/her parents/guardians and therefore the responsibility for such devices rests solely with the individual student. The School District assumes no responsibility or liability whatsoever in the event that an electronic device 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 school property.

District Code of Conduct on School Grounds  
Chester Union Free School District Student Handbook

# CHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT HANDBOOK 2024-2025



The Chester School District develops global leaders by providing students with learning opportunities that foster critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. Students engage in authentic applications that support inquiry and innovation through partnerships with their community, local businesses, and higher education.

### **STUDENT USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

To maintain a safe and productive learning environment that supports both student well-being and academic excellence, it is important to address the impact of cell phones and personal electronic devices during the school day. This includes smartwatches and wireless earbuds or AirPods. Research shows that these devices can hinder students' focus and engagement in learning, while also affecting their social development and interactions.

Under this policy, all cell phones and smartwatches must be stored in bags or lockers during instructional periods. At Chester Elementary School, devices should remain out of sight in backpacks for the entire school day. Any violation of current expectations will be addressed according to the District's Code of Conduct.

# Code of Conduct

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 2024-2025 STUDENT HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT \(PAGES 39-70\)](#)

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## 2024 -2025 Code of Conduct

**INFRACTIONS WITH RANGE OF PENALTY REFERENCES**

	Elementary	Chester Academy				
INFRACTIONS	Range	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<b>Use of electronic devices</b>	2,6,10,12	1,21	2,5,21	2,13,21		

**Disciplinary Measures**

1. Warnings (oral or written)
2. Parent Notification
3. Parent Conference
4. Referral to Counselor
5. Detention
6. Loss of student privileges
7. Restriction of Bus Privileges
8. Teacher Removal
9. Removal to Alternate Location
10. Community Service
11. Restitution
12. Social Probation
13. In-school Suspension
14. Out-of-school Suspension (1-5 days)
15. Referral to Police
16. PINS Petition
17. Superintendent's Hearing (> 5 days)
18. Alternative Education up to 45 days
19. Mandatory Year long Suspension – Superintendent
20. Expulsion
21. Other



## Use of Electronic Devices: Cell Phones/ Watches



John Flanagan • 9 months ago • Wednesday, Aug 28 at 9:03 AM • Chester Academy High School, Chester

Academy Middle School

Good morning Chester Academy,

Student safety and academic success remain our top priorities. As a reminder, students are not permitted to use personal electronic devices during instructional hours. This policy applies to all cell phones and smartwatches. If students bring these devices to school, they must be stored in their bags or lockers during instructional periods. Any violation of these expectations will be addressed according to the District's Code of Conduct. Building administration and staff are working closely together to assure that everyone is in compliance with this directive.

To help maintain a focused learning environment, we kindly ask that parents and guardians refrain from texting their child during the school day. If you need to relay a message during your child's instructional hours, please contact the main office, and our staff will assist you in facilitating communication as needed.

Thank you for your partnership and support in maintaining a safe and productive learning environment, where our focus remains on the well-being and success of every student.

Respectfully,

John Flanagan

Chester Academy Principal



## Electronic Devices

Jessica Alvarez · 9 months ago · Wednesday, Aug 28 at 9:46 AM · **Chester Elementary School**

Dear Chester Elementary School Families,

We would like to remind you that students are not permitted to use personal electronic devices during the school day at Chester Elementary School. This applies to all cell phones and smartwatches. If students bring these devices to school, they must be stored in their bags or lockers during the school day. Any violation of these expectations will be addressed according to the District's Code of Conduct. Building Administration and staff are working together to ensure that everyone is in compliance with this directive.

We kindly ask that parents and guardians refrain from texting their child during the school day. If you need to relay a message to your child during school hours, please contact the main office at (845) 469-2178, and our staff will assist you in facilitating communication as needed.

Thank you for your partnership and support in maintaining a safe and productive learning environment, where our focus remains on the well-being and success of every student.

Thank you,

Mary Kate Boesch

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## Thank You & Essential Updates

Catherine O'Hara • 9 months ago • Friday, Sep 13 at 6:14 PM • Chester Union Free School District

### Cell Phones/Personal Electronic Devices

As you are aware, a notification was sent to parents and families stating that cell phones and personal electronic devices are not permitted for use at CES during the school day and at CA during instructional hours. Study halls are not yet identified within instructional hours under the current BOE Policy #7316, allowing cell phone use during these times at Chester Academy. The Board will be reviewing this policy language to consider including study halls as part of instructional time, aligning with our goal of maintaining a focused academic environment.

Any changes to BOE policy language must be included on the consent agenda for a public meeting. The next scheduled Board of Education meeting is on September 25, 2024. We will notify you of any changes to the current "Use of Electronic Devices" policy.

Thank you for fostering a productive learning environment and for your efforts in ensuring that these expectations are followed. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Chester Union Free School District  
Student Centered-Future Focused-Team Driven

PARENTS STUDENTS STAFF CALENDAR Q

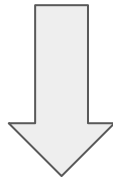
DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION PARENTS DEPARTMENTS ACADEMICS ATHLETICS BUDGET & FINANCE

HOME > DEPARTMENTS > TECHNOLOGY & DATA MANAGEMENT

Facilities  
Technology & Data Management

## Technology & Data Management

Student/Parent Support [Contact Us](#)



## Use of Electronic Devices in School

**Personal Electronic Devices Reminder**



### REMINDER

#### CUFSD POLICY: Use of Electronic Devices

CUFSD Families,

Student safety and academic success remain our top priorities. As a reminder, students are not permitted to use personal electronic devices during instructional hours. This policy applies to all cell phones and smartwatches. If students bring these devices to school, they must be stored in their bags or lockers during instructional periods. Any violation of these expectations will be addressed according to the District's Code of Conduct.

To help maintain a focused learning environment, we kindly ask that parents and guardians refrain from texting their child during the school day. If you need to relay a message during your child's instructional hours, please contact the main office, and our staff will assist you in facilitating communication as needed.

Thank you for your partnership and support in maintaining a safe and productive learning environment, where our focus remains on the well-being and success of every student.

Best regards,

Superintendent of Schools  
Chester Union Free District

New York State requires all school districts to implement bell-to-bell restrictions on cell phones and internet-enabled devices for the 2025-26 school year. Beginning August 1, 2025, all K-12 public and charter schools statewide must restrict smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, and any device capable of internet access during the entire school day on school grounds

<https://youtu.be/EJJDKe2H44?t=296>



# STUDENTS SUFFERING FROM DIGITAL OVERLOAD?

Research leaves no doubt: cell phones and social media harm youth mental health and academics.



**20 MINUTES**

The time it takes for students to regain focus after a nearby cellphone distraction

*\*2023 UNESCO Study*



**15 POINTS**

The decrease in scores of mathematics students when distracted by phones

*\*PISA (2022)*



**3 HOURS**

The daily social media use that doubles anxiety and depression risks among youth

*\*US Surgeon General, 2024*



**68 PERCENT**

The percentage of students who report that electronic devices are distracting

*\*NIH Study, 2017*

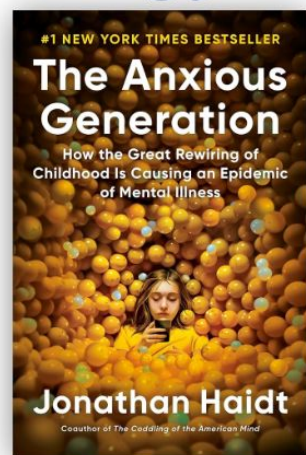
## CELL PHONE REGULATION IS TRENDING:

**1 IN 7  
COUNTRIES**

have banned phones in school, per the [UN's Global Education Monitoring Report](#), while [Arkansas](#), [Florida](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Virginia](#), and [Indiana](#) lead US states in implementing school phone bans.

# Student Phone Use

- 95% of teens (13-18) have a smartphone (Anderson et al., 2023)
- Teens (11-17) used smartphones for an average of 4.5 hours per day, and ~ 43 minutes during school time (Radesky et al., 2023)
- Teens receive A LOT of notifications on their phones (237) and about a quarter of these come during the school day (Radesky et al., 2023)
- 53% of tweens (age 8–12) and 69% of teens (age 13–18) reported that using social media distracts them when they should be doing schoolwork (Rideout & Robb, 2019)



# Effects of Phone Use

- Addictive phone use is associated with:
  - Poorer academic performance (Domoff et al.,2020)
  - Depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, low life satisfaction, and loneliness
- Adolescents who use social media for more than 5 hours per day have:
  - Lower school connectedness (Sampasa-Kanyinga et al., 2019, 2022) more negative perceptions of their school environment, parents and home life, and moods

As of September 2024, 15 states have passed laws or enacted policies that ban or restrict students' use of cellphones in schools statewide. And seven of the nation's 20 largest school districts forbid use of cellphones during the school day.