



Central Islip Union Free School District

Board of Education & School District Policy Book

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Section	Section Title	Type
5000	Student Policies	Local
Policy	Policy Title	
5695	Students and Personal Electronic Devices	

STUDENTS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Board of Education recognizes that students may possess personal electronic devices that can perform different functions. Such devices include "internet-enabled devices" defined as: any cell phone, smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, or other device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including social media applications, but do not include any such device supplied by the District for educational purposes. These devices can create significant distractions in the school environment, negatively impact student mental health, contribute to disciplinary infractions, and reduce student engagement. Additionally, in an emergency, the use of personal electronic devices can distract students from following the directions of staff or emergency responders, contribute to the spread of misinformation, create congestion in the emergency response system, and interfere with the District's emergency response protocols.

The District is not responsible for stolen, lost, or damaged personal electronic devices brought to school.

Communication with Parents/Persons in Parental Relation

During the school day, to minimize distractions, parents (which, for purposes of this policy, include persons in parental relation) may contact their children by calling the school office. Students may contact their parents through the main office. The District will notify parents in writing of the communication protocol at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment.

Device Access and Storage

This policy prohibits student use of "internet-enabled devices" during the school day (including all classes, homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time) on school grounds (any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the boundary of a school or District or BOCES facility), unless an exception (e.g., IEP/Section 504 or as permitted below) applies.

1. At the elementary school level, students are discouraged from bringing devices to school. Any device that is brought to school must be silenced and stored out of view in the student's backpack.
2. At the middle school level, student devices must be silenced and stored out of view in the student's backpack.
3. At the high school level, student devices must be silenced and stored out of view in the student's locker or backpack.

Exceptions for Specific Purposes

Use of internet-enabled devices will be permitted where included in a student's Individualized Education Program, Section 504 plan, or where required by law. Additionally, the District permits the use of internet-enabled devices in the event of an emergency, and under the following circumstances:

1. Where necessary to manage a student's healthcare (e.g., diabetes, asthma, medication, etc.); (per Physician orders)
2. For translation services, (only absent of the availability of a school-issued Chromebook).
3. For students who are routinely responsible for the care and well-being of a family member (on a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor in consultation with school administration).

Parents may request an exception for their children to use internet-enabled devices during the school day as listed above. Requests must be made to the Building Principal, and for healthcare exceptions, must include documentation from an attending healthcare professional.

Students may also be permitted to use their internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds for specific educational purposes, if the following criteria are met: and only absent the availability of a District-issued Chromebook.

- The student has registered the device with the District in accordance with District procedures.
- With administrative approval, the teacher has authorized the use of specific devices for a particular activity, after which the device must be stowed per this policy.
- The student uses the device to access the Internet or authorized applications through the District's network, under the terms of policy 4526, Computer Use in Instruction.

Under any of these exceptions, devices may only be used for the purposes outlined in the exception, and the device must be silenced and put away when not in use, to the extent compatible with the basis for the exception.

Enforcement, Consequences, and Reporting

Enforcement of this policy is chiefly the responsibility of the building administrative staff; however, all employees are expected to assist in its enforcement. Students will be reminded of this policy regularly and consistently, especially at the start of the school year and after returning from breaks.

For students out of compliance with this policy, the device will be held in the school office until the end of the school day. Upon the initial offense, the student may retrieve the device, and the parent will be notified. For subsequent offenses, a parent must retrieve the device. Further offences will result in the device being held in the school office for longer periods of time. The District will exercise reasonable care to maintain the security of devices that are held by the District, but cannot guarantee the devices will be secure. For students seeking exceptions under this policy, the District will consider alternative means to achieve the purpose of the exception, including different storage or access provisions.

Following offenses, the administration will also discuss the aims of this policy with students and their parents, the benefits of a distraction-free environment, the reasons the student had difficulty following this policy, and how the District can assist the student to contribute to a distraction-free environment.

The District may not impose suspension from school if the sole ground for the suspension is that the student accessed an internet-enabled device as prohibited by this policy. However, the District may utilize consequences under the District's Code of Conduct, including detention, in school suspension, and exclusion from extra curricular activities. The District may also utilize assignments on the detrimental impact of social media on mental health, smartphones in school, or other relevant topics.

Some uses of personal electronic devices may constitute a violation of the School District Code of Conduct or other District policies, and in some instances, the law. The District will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Beginning September 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, the District will publish an annual report on its website detailing the enforcement of this policy over the past year, including nonidentifiable demographic information of students who have faced disciplinary action for noncompliance with this policy, and an analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement of this policy. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, the report will include a plan to mitigate such disparate enforcement.

Electronic Devices and Testing

To ensure the integrity of testing, in accordance with state guidelines, students may not bring cell phones or other electronic devices into classrooms or other exam locations during all testing.

Test proctors, monitors, and school officials have the right to collect cell phones and other prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test and to hold them for the duration of the test-taking time. Admission to the test will be prohibited to any student who has a cell phone or other electronic device in his/her possession and does not relinquish it.

Students with Individualized Education Plans, Section 504 Plans, or documentation from medical practitioners specifically requiring use of electronic devices may so use as specified.

Policy Distribution and Translation

As required by law, the District will post this policy in a clearly visible and accessible location on its website. Upon request by a student or parent, the District will translate this policy into any of the twelve most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in the State, as

identified by the most recent American Community Survey published by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The District will also include this policy, or a plain language summary, in student/family handbooks.

Adoption date: May 14, 2010

1 st Revision date: April 16, 2018

2nd Revision date: July 14, 2025

Cross Reference:

4526, Computer Use in Instruction

4526.1, Internet Safety

5300, Code of Conduct

Reference:

Price v. New York City Board Of Education, 51 A.D.3d 277, IV. to appeal denied, 11 N.Y.3d 702 (2008) (District may ban possession of cell phones on school property)

NYSED, Prohibition of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices in New York State Assessments, www.nysed.gov/educator-integrity/prohibition-cell-phones-and-electronicdevices-new-york-state-assessments