



West Irondequoit Central School District

Policy 7315

Students

USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Overview

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 Internet-enabled devices by students during the school day on school grounds. This policy aims to ensure that students remain focused on their academic responsibilities and social emotional health 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) "Internet-enabled devices" means and includes any 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.

"Internet-enabled devices" does not include:

- 1. Non-Internet-enabled devices such as cellular phones or other communication devices not capable of connecting to the Internet or enabling the user to access content on the Internet; or
 - 2. Internet-enabled devices supplied by the District, charter school, or Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) that are used for an educational purpose.
- 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 Internet-enabled devices during the school day anywhere on school grounds.

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

- a) If authorized by a teacher, principal, or the District for a specific educational purpose;
- b) Where necessary for the management of a student's health care;
- c) In the event of an emergency;



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- d) For translation services;
- e) On a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, district physician, or school counselor for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and well-being of a family member; or
- f) Where required by law.

Students must be permitted to use an Internet-enabled 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-Enabled Devices Including Cell Phones

Students must store their Internet-enabled devices in designated on-site storage areas during the school day. All students will store internet-enabled devices in lockers. Each student will be assigned a school locker for the purpose of storing textbooks, school materials, personal belongings (i.e., winter jacket) and all internet-enabled devices. This designated on-site storage area, (i.e. student locker) is easily accessible to students and will 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 guardians may use the following methods to contact their student during school hours while adhering to this policy:

- a) School Office Phone: Parents or guardians 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 guardian.
- b) Designated Contact Email: Schools may provide a designated email address for parents and guardians to send messages. These emails may be monitored by school staff, such as a classroom teacher or secretary, who can then pass the messages on to the students.
- c) School Messaging Application: The District and/or school (building principal, classroom teachers, etc.) may use a secure messaging application or platform where parents or guardians can send messages to their students. The messages may be monitored and delivered by school staff.
- e) Written Notes: Parents or guardians can drop off written notes at the school's main office, which can then be delivered to the student by school staff.



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Parents and guardians 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 Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day

The District is prohibited from suspending a student solely for accessing internet-enabled devices in violation of this policy. However, continued infractions to this policy may result in:

- Verbal warnings for first offenses
- Temporary confiscation
- Detention or loss of privileges
- Parent/guardian notification
- Progressive discipline for repeat offenses

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

Adopted: 7/8/25