



Announcement from Lancaster Central School District

Dear Lancaster Families,

By now, you are aware that Governor Hochul introduced legislation to establish bell-to-bell restrictions on the use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day. This statewide initiative, which goes into effect for the 2025-26 school year, is part of the Governor's broader effort to support student well-being and reduce distractions in schools.

Key points of the legislation include:

- Personal smartphones and other internet-enabled devices (such as smartwatches and wireless earbuds) will not be allowed during the school day, including in classrooms, the cafeteria, hallways, and study halls.
- Schools will retain local flexibility in how these devices are stored during the day.
- Parents and guardians will still be able to contact their children through designated school communication channels.

What This Means for Lancaster

In anticipation of this statewide mandate, we spent the final months of the 2024–25 school year gathering input from student leadership groups and engaging in thoughtful planning to align with the legislation. We also distributed a survey to our school community in June to collect broader feedback.

What to Expect When Students Return on September 2, 2025:

- **Device storage:**
 - *Grades 4–12:* Students will store their internet-enabled devices in their school-assigned, locked lockers during the school day.
 - *Grades K–3:* Families are encouraged to have students leave internet-enabled devices at home.
 - Additional building-specific guidance will be shared by your student's principal before the start of school.
- **Family communication:**
 - Families can contact students by calling the main office, dropping off a note, or *(for grades 7–12)* emailing the student's district-monitored email address.

We will continue to keep families informed with updates via text, email, and our district website. Please keep an eye out for future communications.

As always, we value your feedback. Our [school community input](#) form remains open, and we welcome your thoughts or questions as we navigate the expectations of this new legislation together.

Sincerely,
Andrew P. Kufel, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools