

(X) Required

(x) Local

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STUDENTS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Board of Education recognizes that students may have personal electronic devices that can perform different functions. Such devices include “internet-enabled devices” defined as: 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, but do not include any such device supplied by the district for educational purposes. Other personal electronic devices include devices which are not capable of connecting to the internet and accessing content on the internet, fitness trackers, wired or wireless headphones and earbuds, e-readers, calculators, voice recorders, cameras and music devices. These devices can create significant distractions to 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.

Communication with Parents/Persons in Parental Relation

During the school day, to minimize distractions, parents (which, for purposes of this policy, includes persons in parental relation) may contact their children via the following methods:

1. **At the elementary level:** calling the school office
2. **At the middle school level:** calling the school office
3. **At the high school level:** calling the school office or by using the District-provided email address.

Students may contact their parents by using these same methods above. The District will notify parents in writing annually of the communication protocol at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment.

Device Access and Storage

As required by Education Law §2803, this policy prohibits student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day (including all classes, homeroom periods, and passing time) on school grounds (any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the boundary of the District’s schools or facilities), unless under an exception (i.e., a student’s Individualized Education Plan/Section 504 or as permitted below).

1. **At the elementary level:** Any device that is brought to school must be turned off and kept in the student’s backpack.
2. **At the middle-school level:** Any device that is brought to school must be turned off and kept in the student’s locker.

3. **At the high-school level:** Any device that is brought to school must be turned off and kept in the student's backpack or locker. *Students who leave school grounds for lunch during the school day are permitted to take their internet-enabled devices with them; however, all devices must be turned off and kept in the student's backpack or locker immediately upon reentering the building.*

Students are discouraged from bringing other personal electronic devices to school. If students do bring such devices to school, they must be stored for the entire school day in backpacks or lockers, and they must be silenced and not used during the school day unless permission is granted by an authorized District staff.

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.);
2. For students who are routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member

Parents must request an exception in writing 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 appropriate healthcare professional. Approval of such exceptions shall be granted only on a limited, case-by-case basis, and may be subject to review and renewal on a daily or otherwise specified basis. No exception shall be considered permanent.

The District provides students with one-to-one devices; therefore, personal electronic devices are not permitted for educational purposes.

Enforcement, Consequences and Reporting

Enforcement of this policy is chiefly the responsibility of building administrative staff; however, all designated employees are expected to assist in 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 confiscated and held in the school office until the end of the school day. The first time this happens, the student may retrieve the device, and the parent will be notified. For subsequent instances, the parent must retrieve the device. 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. The District is not responsible for stolen, lost or damaged personal electronic devices brought to school.

Administrators 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 help the student contribute to a distraction-free environment.

The District will not impose suspension from school if the sole grounds 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 extracurricular activities.

Some uses of personal electronic devices may constitute a violation of the District's 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 non-identifiable demographic information of students who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance 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.

The District will also include this information, or a plain language summary, on the District's website under Quicklinks.

Cross-ref: 4526, Computer Use in Instruction
 4526.1, Internet Safety
 5300, Code of Conduct

Adopted: July 23, 2025

Ref: Education Law §2803
 Price v. New York City Board of Education, 51 A.D.3d 277, lv. 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-electronic-devices-new-york-state-assessments