

August 2025

Dear Syosset Parents and Guardians:

As part of the State budget enacted in May 2025, New York State adopted a “distraction-free schools” law which will be in effect starting with the 2025-2026 school year. **Under the new law, students in grades K through 12 are not permitted to use “internet-enabled devices” during the entirety of the regular school day, except in limited circumstances.** The Syosset Board of Education recently adopted an [updated version of its Acceptable Use Policy](#) to comply with the new law.

Beginning this upcoming school year, all of our schools will implement a “Bell-to-Bell Ban” on student use of internet-enabled devices on all school grounds. This means these devices may not be used during the entirety of the school day – including all instructional and non-instructional time such as lunch, recess, passing time, and study hall. Students will have access to these devices once the regular school day ends.

“Internet-enabled devices” includes smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, personal laptops and any other device capable of connecting to the internet or accessing social media. School district-issued Chromebooks or computers are exempt from this ban.

We understand that this change may require adjustments for families and students alike. However, we are committed to making this transition as seamless as possible.

Student Device Storage Requirements by School Level

Each school level will follow the following procedures regarding internet-enabled devices:

Elementary Schools

- Students are discouraged from bringing internet-enabled devices to school. Any internet-enabled device that is brought to school must be silenced and kept in the classroom in the location designated by the teacher.

Middle Schools

- Students are discouraged from bringing internet-enabled devices to school. Any internet-enabled device that is brought to school must be silenced and stored in the student’s locker until student dismissal at the conclusion of the school day. Students may not access these devices during passing time or lunch.

High School

- Internet-enabled devices must be silenced and stored in student lockers from arrival until student dismissal. Students may not access these devices during passing time or lunch.

Parents/guardians who need to reach their child during the school day may do so by calling the school's main office. In addition, the building administration may permit students to use internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds in the following limited instances:

1. If authorized by a teacher, principal, or the School District for a specific educational purpose;
2. Where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare or IEP;
3. In the event of an emergency;
4. For translation services;
5. On a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor, for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member; or,
6. Where otherwise required by law.

We appreciate your partnership in fostering a learning environment that prioritizes student engagement, safety, and well-being. For additional information, [please visit the District website or contact your school principal.](#)

Sincerely,
The Syosset Central School District