

## **PERSONAL AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES FOR STUDENTS**

### **Distraction-Free Schools**

This policy is designed to eliminate any interference with teaching and learning by the use of all Personal and Other Electronic Devices (PEDs) throughout the entirety of the official school day as defined by the Board of Education. In order to assist parents/persons in parental relation with the use of PEDs outside of the school environment, some instruction in the appropriate use of PEDs will be addressed in the curriculum.

#### **I. Definitions**

For purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply from the first bell of the school day to the final dismissal bell of the school day.

**Personal and Other Electronic Devices** (PEDs) shall mean any electronic device owned or possessed by a student, whether or not it is capable of connecting to the internet or enabling the user to access content on the internet. Such devices may include, but are not limited to, Internet-Enabled Devices (as defined in this policy), as well as any other electronic devices that are capable of making and/or receiving voice, audio, video, telephone, or text communications; video games and video gaming systems; speakers and other devices that play music and/or video content; and headphones.

**Internet-Enabled Devices** shall mean any device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including but not limited to social media applications. Such devices shall include, but not be limited to smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, laptops, and other portable electronic communication or computing devices. Internet-enabled devices supplied by the School District that are used for an educational purpose are not included in this definition.

**School Day** shall mean the entirety of every instructional day, including during instructional and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, outdoor learning, curricular field trips, work-based learning, restroom breaks, study hall and passing time.

**School Grounds** shall mean in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of the District.

#### **II. Prohibited Use**

It is generally recommended that students not bring these devices to school. However, should a student choose to bring a PED to school, the District assumes no responsibility for the loss, damage, or the theft of any PED.

Students are prohibited from using PEDs on school grounds during the school day, except as expressly permitted under the exceptions outlined in this policy.

### **III. Storage of Devices**

It is generally recommended that students not bring these devices to school. Any device that is brought to school must be silenced.

For students who choose to bring their device into the school:

Students in grades PK-5 will be required to contain their PEDs in their personal classroom storage as assigned by the teacher and secured within the classroom.

Students in grades 6-12 will be assigned an individual student locker. When the locker is issued by staff to the students it is done so in a manner that no other student has access to the storage. Students are expected to store all personal and other electronic devices in their assigned lockers from bell-to-bell.

### **IV. Communication and Contact**

A landline is available in each school building.

Written notification about the landline will be provided to parents of or persons in parental relation to a student at the beginning of each school year and upon student enrollment.

### **V. Discipline and Enforcement**

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary penalties pursuant to the District's Code of Conduct and subject to applicable law and regulations. Progressive discipline or restorative practices may be used in cases of repeated violations, consistent with the District's Code of Conduct.

Specifically, the unauthorized possession or use of any PEDs may result in its confiscation and in disciplinary consequences per the Code of Conduct. Some uses of PEDs may constitute a violation of the law, and the District will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate. PEDs are strictly prohibited in locker rooms and bathrooms, and may not be used in any way that jeopardizes the privacy of another individual.

In order to safeguard the integrity of testing, in accordance with state guidelines, students are not allowed to bring PEDs into classrooms or other exam locations during District designated exam periods (i.e., Standardized testing, State Assessments). Test proctors, monitors, and school officials shall have the right to collect PEDs prior to the start of the test and to hold them for the duration of the test administration. Admission to the test will be prohibited to any student who has a PED in his/her possession and does not relinquish it.

## **VI. Exceptions**

Student use of an internet-enabled device during the school day on school grounds may be authorized in the following limited circumstances:

### **A. Educational Use**

If authorized by the Building Principal or the Director of Special Services in consultation with the Building Principal for a specific educational purpose.

When appropriate, the District will supply an approved device for a student to borrow for any formal assignment authorized by faculty that requires the use of PEDs. Images taken or stored on PEDs for purposes of the assignment may not be shared or posted electronically.

### **B. Health**

The submission of a physician's note is not sufficient to warrant healthcare use. The approval of the School District's Medical Director is necessary for managing a student's healthcare plan.

### **C. Legal Requirements**

When the use of such a device is required by law.

### **D. 504/IEP Plans**

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or otherwise limit a student's use of an internet-enabled device where such use is included in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

PEDs may be used on school property or at school events as follows:

1. On the school bus unless the privilege is lost due to a violation of the Code of Conduct;
2. Before the start of the official school day (prior to the first bell of the school day) on school property;
3. After the end of the official school day (after the final dismissal bell of the school day) on school property;
4. At after-school or athletic activities, only with the permission of the coach instructor, program director or administrator, unless attending as a spectator. The school personnel listed in this paragraph shall have the discretion to determine the use of PEDs for students participating in

extracurricular activities while on school property or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities on or off school property;

5. At evening or weekend activities inside or on school property;
6. Best practices in emergency management recommend that students not use PEDs when an Emergency Response Plan is enacted.

**E. Accessibility and Language Access**

This policy shall be clearly posted and accessible on the District's website. Upon request by a student, parent, or person in parental relation to a student, a translation of this policy into any of the twelve most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in New York State shall be provided.

**Regulations**

The Board authorizes and directs the Superintendent of Schools to establish regulations implementing this policy.

Adoption Date: February 2, 2021

Revised: July 8, 2025