

Rondout Valley Central School District

Student Cell Phone & Personal Electronic Device Storage Plan

Effective Date: August 1, 2025

Applies to: All K–12 students

Policy Reference: In accordance with Education Law §2803 and NYSSBA Policy 5695

Overview

To support a focused, respectful, and distraction-free learning environment, all student access to **internet-enabled personal electronic devices** (e.g., smartphones, smartwatches, glasses, tablets) during the school day is prohibited unless specifically permitted under IEP/504 plans or in designated emergency/educational exceptions. Devices must be **silenced and securely stored** in district-approved locations during all instructional and non-instructional time, including lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.

Device Policy: *Devices are defined as any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, glasses or other device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including social media applications **must be silenced and stored upon entering the school building.***

*Other **personal electronic devices** includes devices which are not capable of connecting to the internet and access content on the internet. [Fitness trackers, wireless headphones and earbuds, e-readers, voice recorders, cameras and music devices.] These devices can create significant distraction to the school environment, negatively impact student mental health, contribute to disciplinary infractions, and reduce student engagement.*

■ Elementary Schools (Grades K–3)

- **Devices Discouraged:** Students are strongly discouraged from bringing internet-enabled personal electronic devices (e.g., smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, glasses) to school.
- **If a Device Is Brought:** It must be silenced and stored immediately upon arrival.
- **Storage Method:** Classroom teacher's locked cabinet, designated storage boxes or student lockers.
- **Student Access:** Devices may not be accessed until dismissal unless a documented exception is on file (e.g., healthcare need, IEP/504 Plan).

▣ Intermediate School (Grades 4–6)

- **Devices Discouraged:** Students are strongly discouraged from bringing internet-enabled personal electronic devices (e.g., smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, glasses) to school.
- **If a Device Is Brought:** It must be silenced and stored immediately upon arrival.
- **Storage Method:** Classroom teacher’s locked cabinet, designated storage boxes or student lockers.
- **Student Access:** Devices may not be accessed until dismissal unless a documented exception is on file (e.g., healthcare need, IEP/504 Plan).

▣ Junior High School (Grades 7–8)

- **Devices Discouraged:** Students are strongly discouraged from bringing internet-enabled personal electronic devices (e.g., smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, glasses) to school.
- **If a Device Is Brought:** It must be silenced and stored immediately upon arrival.
- **Storage Method:** internet-enabled personal electronic devices (e.g., smartphones, smartwatches, tablets) will be locked in student lockers with personal lock combinations.
- **Student Access:** Devices may not be accessed until dismissal unless a documented exception is on file (e.g., healthcare need, IEP/504 Plan).

High School (Grades 9–12)

- **Devices Discouraged:** Students are strongly discouraged from bringing internet-enabled personal electronic devices (e.g., smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, glasses) to school.
- **If a Device Is Brought:** It must be silenced and stored immediately upon arrival.
- **Storage Options:**
 - Individual storage pouches
 - The Yondr system provides a consistent, school-wide solution that meets the requirements of the mandate while allowing students to keep their device on them, secured and inaccessible throughout the school day. Students will lock and unlock their pouches at designated stations on arrivals and dismissals.
- **Student Access:** Devices **may not** be accessed during class periods, transitions, or lunch unless a documented exception is on file (e.g., healthcare need, IEP/504 Plan).

Exceptions (All Grade Levels)

Use of devices will be permitted for:

- Documented **medical conditions** (e.g., diabetes monitoring, asthma apps)
- **Translation** tools for multilingual learners
- **Mandated supports** listed in an IEP or 504 Plan

All exceptions must be submitted to and approved by the **Building Principal**, except where such use is included in the student's Individualized Education Program ("IEP" or Section 504 plan).

Parent/Guardian Communication Protocol

- During the school day, **parents/guardians may contact students** by calling the **main office** of their school building.

- No calls will be transferred into classrooms; instead, students will be called down to the main office to contact their parent/guardian.
- Students will **not** be permitted to use personal devices to call or message home during the school day.
- If a student needs to contact a parent or guardian, a phone will be available in designated offices for student use.
- Emergencies will be handled through administration with immediate communication with families.

Security & Enforcement

Personal electronic devices (e.g., smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, glasses) that are not stored properly or are used without permission will be confiscated and held in the school office. The following offenses will be added to our Student Code of Conduct:

1st Offense, Student's device will be confiscated. It stays in the school office until the end of the day, at which time a parent or guardian must come to retrieve the device (**1A, 1B** Teacher / Student / Parent Response).

2nd Offense, Student's device will be confiscated. It stays in the school office until the end of the day, at which time a parent or guardian must come to retrieve the device. Students may receive a consequence of a second infraction (**2A, 2B** Administrative Referral).

3rd Offense, Student's device will be confiscated. It stays in the school office until the end of the day, at which time a parent or guardian must come to retrieve the device. Students may receive a consequence of a third infraction. Repeat offenders will have a parent conference with administration. (**2A, 2B** Administrative Referral).

4th Offense and beyond, Student's device will be confiscated. It stays in the school office until the end of the day, at which time a parent or guardian must come to retrieve the device. Students shall receive a consequence of a fourth infraction. Repeat offenders will have a parent conference with administration. (**2A, 2B** Administrative Referral).

**Students who destroy or damage device pouches or storage areas to access phones or personal technology, may be subject to behavioral supports/responses in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and parents/guardians will be

held financially responsible for the cost of reimbursement for the device pouch or storage area.

The district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.