



# SEAFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Adele V. Pecora, Superintendent of Schools

July 18, 2025

Dear Seaford Families,

We are writing to inform you of the new *NYS Distraction-Free Schools Law* enacted as part of the 2025-2026 New York State budget. This new law places a ban on student use of non-school issued, internet-enabled devices for the entirety of the instructional day. **NYS Education Law Section 2803** went into effect on **May 10, 2025**, and the ban begins on **August 1, 2025**. According to the new law, *internet-enabled devices* “include smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, or any other device that can connect to the internet and allow the user to access content on the internet, including social media applications.” We understand that this is a significant change.

The new law requires students to store their internet-enabled devices at the start of the instructional day and keep them stored until the school day ends, unless permitted by education law.

- **Middle/High School Only:** Students are expected to turn off or silence and store their internet-enabled devices in their locker when they enter the building in the morning for the entirety of the school day.
- **High School Only:** If students have senior privilege period(s) and are leaving the school grounds, they may retrieve their internet-enabled device for that period of time, provided they do not turn it on or use it until they have exited school grounds.
- **Elementary Only:** Students are expected to turn off or silence and store their internet-enabled devices in a designated classroom space when they enter the building in the morning for the entirety of the school day.

We realize that parents/guardians may need to contact their child during the school day; therefore, they are welcome to call the school’s main office. Students will be permitted to return calls from the main office. Please see below for the number(s) to call:

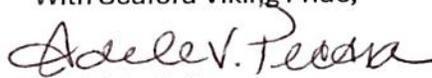
- **Manor:** 516-592-4080
- **Harbor:** 516-592-4100
- **Middle School:** 516-592-4200
- **High School:** 516-592-4380

There are rare instances in which the building administration has the discretion to allow students to use personal electronic devices during the school day on school grounds. These unique circumstances would typically be for specific educational purposes, or for the management of a student’s healthcare.

Since school districts are responsible for enforcing this law, progressive discipline will be utilized based on the number of infractions. We are hopeful that students will comply with this legal requirement, minimizing the need for disciplinary measures. Please see the attached charts based on your child’s level (elementary/secondary); these consequences are exclusive to any other code of conduct infractions, either related to or unrelated to internet-enabled devices.

We greatly appreciate your partnership and support as we observe this new law. As always, we are committed to supporting you and your children in maximizing their educational potential. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your building administration with any questions.

With Seaford Viking Pride,

  
Dr. Adele V. Pecora

1600 Washington Avenue Seaford, New York 11783

(516) 592-4001

**\*These consequences are exclusive of any other code of conduct infractions, either related to or unrelated to internet-enabled devices\***

**Elementary**

<b>First Infraction</b>	The student receives a warning. A teacher or administrator confiscates the internet-enabled device which is held in a designated area. The teacher calls home to inform the parents/guardians. The internet-enabled device is returned to the student at the end of the school day.
<b>Second Infraction</b>	The student receives a second warning. A teacher or administrator confiscates the internet-enabled device which is held in a designated area. The teacher calls home to inform the parents/guardians. The internet-enabled device must be picked up by the parent/guardian at the end of the school day or at any time thereafter.
<b>Third Infraction</b>	A teacher or administrator confiscates the internet-enabled device which is held in a designated area. The teacher calls home to inform the parents/guardians. The internet-enabled device must be picked up by the parent at the end of the school day or at any time thereafter. The student is assigned to serve one detention.
<b>Fourth Infraction</b>	A teacher or administrator confiscates the internet-enabled device which is held in a designated area. The teacher calls home to inform the parents/guardians. The internet-enabled device must be picked up by the parent at the end of the school day or at any time thereafter. The student is assigned to serve two detentions.
<b>Five or More Infractions</b>	The student must turn in the internet-enabled device at the beginning of each school day to a designated administrator for a minimum of one month. Additional detentions may be assigned, and the student may face progressive loss of privileges to attend afternoon, evening, and weekend school events.

**\*These consequences are exclusive of any other code of conduct infractions, either related to or unrelated to internet-enabled devices\***

**Secondary**

<b>First Infraction</b>	The student receives a warning. A teacher or administrator confiscates the internet-enabled device. An administrator or designee calls home to inform the parents/guardians. The internet-enabled device is returned to the student at the end of the school day.
<b>Second Infraction</b>	The student receives a second warning. A teacher or administrator confiscates the internet-enabled device. An administrator or designee calls home to inform the parents/guardians. The internet-enabled device must be picked up by the parent/guardian at the end of the school day or at any time thereafter. The student is assigned to serve one detention.
<b>Third Infraction</b>	A teacher or administrator confiscates the internet-enabled device. An administrator or designee calls home to inform the parents/guardians. The internet-enabled device must be picked up by the parent at the end of the school day or at any time thereafter. The student is assigned to serve two detentions.
<b>Four or More Infractions</b>	The student must turn in the internet-enabled device at the beginning of each school day to a designated administrator for a minimum of one month. Additional detentions may be assigned, and the student may face progressive loss of privileges to attend afternoon, evening, and weekend school events.