

7315R

Students

USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

In order to develop safe and engaging learning environments, foster social emotional wellness, and increase connection and relationships, as well as comply with New York State law, students are required to refrain from using personal electronic devices anywhere on school grounds during the school day unless:

- a. explicitly authorized by a principal, teacher or supervising adult for a specific educational purpose;
- b. where necessary for the management of a student's health care;
- c. in the event of an emergency;
- d. for translation services;
- e. on a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, district physician, or school counselor for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and well-being of a family member; or
- f. where required by law.

Any authorized use must comply with Board of Education policies and the Code of Conduct.

Definitions

1. Personal Electronic Devices

"Internet-enabled devices" means and includes 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.

2. School Day

"School day" means the entirety of every instructional day as required by subdivision 7 of the Education Law Section 3604 during all instructional time and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.

3. School Grounds

"School grounds" means in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a district elementary, intermediate, junior high, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a BOCES facility.

4. In the Event of an Emergency

Building administrators will use professional judgement to apply the ‘emergency’ clause of when students are able to use personal, internet-enabled devices.

- For example, if a parent calls sharing that a family member has a medical emergency, we will ask a school counselor to go to the room during instruction to pull the student to make the call in the main office.
- If a parent calls and wants to tell the student that they have a change in pick up location, our front office staff could ask if the student could call at the end of the period or during their free period.

Students are responsible for:

- Personal, internet-enabled electronic devices must be turned off or set to airplane mode during the school day.
- Personal, internet-enabled electronic devices may not be seen or heard and must be stored out of sight for the duration of the school day in their assigned lockers. Students will use their assigned lockers for the storage of personal, internet-enabled devices.

Violations

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary or remedial action, including:

- verbal warning;
- verbal warning and notification of violation to parent/guardian;
- lunch detention/after school detention may be assigned by teacher or administrator;
- disciplinary referral to administration after repeat violations;
- confiscation of device; and,
- potential Support Agreement - student may be required to turn in their device to administrators at the beginning of the school day.

Disciplinary actions will be determined by the building administrator in accordance with District guidelines as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Escalated Actions

While students may not be suspended for a single violation of this policy, a pattern of insubordination and/or engaging in other misconduct while using a personal electronic device in violation of the Code of Conduct or Board of Education policy may lead to further discipline, up to and including suspension from school.

Parent/Guardian Communication

Parents/guardians should:

- Contact the school office for urgent communication with their children during the school day.
- Use other appropriate means to contact their children during the school day, as directed by the building principal.
 - Examples: Contact building main office, message through the classroom teacher's communication platform (i.e., Remind, Schoology, etc.); send in a written note.

Language, Caregiver, and Educational Exceptions:

Exceptions to this policy will be granted, as determined appropriate by the District, and as appropriate for students who are determined to require device access for:

- language translation needs/services;
- educational accommodations as specified in student Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans, if the accommodation is not available for use through a District-provided device; and
- student caregivers who are routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member and whom a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor has determined need such access during the school day.

Medical Exceptions:

The medical conditions that may require a cell phone for children in school are very rare. Healthcare providers should provide written recommendations for cell phone use, or another approved technology, to manage medical conditions during school hours. Due to the specialized nature of the medical conditions that may require a medical exception, recommendations for exemptions must be provided by a specialist who is providing treatment for the associated condition. For example, an Endocrinologist would provide recommendations for a student who requires their cell phone for continuous glucose monitoring as part of their diabetes care plan.

Procedures for Exceptions

All exceptions to this policy are granted by the building administrator or designee. Parent/guardians seeking an exception must send an email and/or letter to building administration outlining the reason for the exception, rationale, and the medical specialist documentation, as appropriate.

All requests for exceptions will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary team that includes building administration, a counselor or social worker, a psychologist, at least one teacher, and when appropriate the District Medical Director.

All students eligible for the exception due to translation services will be granted in partnership with Student Services and the student's family.