



DANSVILLE, NY

August 2025

Dear Dansville Families,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we want to make you aware of an important change affecting all New York State public schools, including Dansville Central Schools. Beginning in September 2025, new state legislation will require schools to prohibit the use of internet-enabled devices, cell phones, and devices capable of messaging by students during the entire school day. This includes class time, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing periods.

We appreciate the staff, students, and families who participated in our ThoughtExchange survey and/or attended our Community Forum on this topic during the summer. We learned a lot from your responses – families want to stay connected to their children and our schools; mental health and dependence on social media are significant concerns; there were many questions regarding procedural details and enforcement of this policy; the results should be equitable and reasonable. This resulted in a new policy and procedures that aim to address mental health concerns and improve student engagement both academically and socially.

Over the summer, our Board of Education approved the required policy and our Policy Committee met to determine the details of implementation based on your questions and feedback. Additionally, we updated language for our Code of Conduct and published a Frequently Asked Questions document for your reference. All of these can be found on our district's website.

What's Changing in our schools?

In accordance with new state law and the following procedures will go into effect on the first day of school and remain in place each school day from arrival to dismissal in all buildings:

- **DHS (Grades 7-12)** students will be required to place all personal devices in their lockers each morning upon arrival. Devices may be retrieved following 8th period (2:26 pm). Students who attend BOCES programs may take their device with them and follow the procedures established by BOCES upon arrival at their site.
- **EBH Elementary (Grades 3-6)**, where device use is less prevalent, any student with a device will be expected to keep it in their classroom cubbies throughout the school day. Devices may be retrieved at dismissal (2:23 pm).

KELLY M. ZIMMERMAN
Superintendent of Schools

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• **DPS (Pre School – 2nd grade)**, where device use is the least prevalent, any student with a device will be expected to keep it in their classroom cubbies or main office if needed. However students at this age are generally not expected to have phones in school.

Storage units will be present in the Main Office of each building to be used if students violate the use of lockers/cubbies, or if students feel more comfortable storing devices in that location.

Contacting Your Child During the School Day:

We understand how important it is for families to stay connected. If you need to reach your child during the school day, you may call the school's main office or deliver a written note to the school. In the event of an emergency, school staff will ensure that messages are delivered promptly. Any district-wide updates including schedule changes will be communicated through our district's new communication platform, ParentSquare.

Enforcement and Collective Responsibility:

We all share the responsibility to ensure that students follow the new procedures beginning on the first day of school. Those who do not comply will be addressed through a progressive discipline approach, consistent with the Code of Conduct in each school. We will partner with our families to ensure compliance.

Exemptions to the Policy:

- District-issued Chromebooks, used for educational purposes and classroom instruction only, will be permitted for use.
- For guidance on medical exceptions or individualized special education needs, please contact the District Office – Office of Special Education and Services at (585) 335-4000.

We appreciate your support and valuable feedback as we work together to create safe and focused learning environments for all students. We anticipate that some students will need support as they become less dependent on their devices and we're prepared to help with a focus on student well-being. Please take some time to speak with your child about this new law, procedural changes, and review the FAQ for answers to common questions. Don't hesitate to reach out to your child's building principal with any additional questions about the new changes.

Sincerely,



Kelly M. Zimmerman
Superintendent of Schools