

Brookfield Central School
Achieving Academic Excellence

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Brookfield Central School Phone Policy DRAFT

I. Statement of Policy

The Brookfield Central School District (District) believes in the importance of having spaces that encourage sustained attention and focus on learning and instruction. The use and possession of Internet-Enabled Devices during the school day interfere with the ability of students to learn and engage with their teachers, staff, and fellow students. The District will not be liable for loss, theft, or damage to Internet-Enabled Devices.

II. Definitions

A. Internet-Enabled Device - 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.

B. School day - the entire instructional day, during all instructional and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing times.

C. School grounds - 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 board of cooperative educational services facility.

III. Prohibition of Internet-Enabled Devices in School

The use of Internet-Enabled Devices by students during the school day anywhere on school grounds is prohibited.

IV. Exceptions

A. This Policy is not violated when students are authorized to use an Internet-Enabled Device in the following situation(s):

1. The student has been authorized by a teacher, Building Principal, or the District to use an Internet-Enabled Device for educational purposes during instructional time;

2. Where the use is necessary to manage the student's medical condition;

3. In the event of an emergency;

4. Where the use of an Internet-Enabled Device is part of the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan;

5. Where it is needed for translation purposes;

6. On a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor, for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and well-being of a family member; or

7. Where otherwise required by law.

B. Students are authorized to have access to simple cellphones (i.e., phones without internet capability or access). Internet-Enabled Devices that have been provided to students for classroom instruction, such as laptops or tablets used as part of instruction, are also authorized for students to access.

C. It is not a violation of this Policy for a student to leave an Internet-Enabled Device in a locked vehicle during the school day or during school activities.

V. Consequences for Violations of this Policy

A. The consequences for violation(s) of this Policy will be consistent with the Code of Conduct. However, the suspension of a student is not permitted if the sole grounds for the suspension are that the student accessed an Internet-Enabled Device in violation of this Policy.

B. Student Athletes who violate this Policy may also be subject to discipline consistent with the Athletic Code of Conduct.

C. Confiscation

1. Internet-Enabled Devices used in violation of this Policy and/or the Code of Conduct will be confiscated by staff and turned over to the Building Principal.

2. The Building Principal will contact the parent(s)/person(s) in parental relation and schedule a conference with the student and their parent(s)/person(s) in parental relation. The device will be returned to the student or their parent(s)/person(s) in parental relation at that conference or at the end of the school day.

VI. Contact During the School Day

Parents/Persons in parental relation may contact their student(s) during the school day in the following manner:

Contact the Main Office for general matters (or for all matters) at 315-899-3323.

Contact the Nurse's Office for calls related to a student's medical needs at 315-899-3323.

Contact the Guidance Counselor's Office at 315-899-3323.

VII. Storing Students' Internet-Enabled Devices

When entering the school building, students will put their Internet-Enabled Devices in a school-provided security locker. The security lockers will be moved to the main office during the school day. At dismissal or when leaving the school building, students will be able to retrieve their Internet-Enabled Device from the security locker.

VIII. Implementation

The Superintendent or their designee shall develop any Regulations or internal procedures that may be necessary to implement this Policy.

IX. Required Notifications

A. A copy of this Policy shall be posted in a clearly visible and accessible location on the District website.

B. The District shall provide a translation of this Policy upon request of a student or parent/person in parental relation in accordance with the law.

C. Parents/Persons in Parental Relation will be notified in writing of the methods they can use to contact their student(s) during the school day, as outlined in Section VI of this Policy. This notification will occur at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment.

X. Annual Reporting

On September 1, 2026, and every September 1 thereafter, the District shall publish, on its website, an annual report that details the enforcement of this Policy during the prior school year. This report must include:

A. Non-identifiable demographic data of students who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance with this Policy.

B. An analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement.

C. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, such report shall include a mitigation action plan.