



Olga Hugelmeyer, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

August 10, 2026

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Community,

On January 8, 2026, the Governor signed legislation (P.L.2025, c.195), which required the Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines concerning student use of internet-enabled devices (i.e., cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, smart wearables, etc.) and also required each board of education to adopt a bell-to-bell policy prohibiting student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day.

In accordance with the law and the New Jersey Department of Education guidelines, and to uphold this commitment, the EPS cell phone policy (**EBOE Policy 6142.11**) restricts students from unauthorized access to and use of personal electronic devices during the entire school day ("bell-to-bell"). Except for circumstances outlined in the law and guidance, personal devices may not be used at any time during the school day, including during lunch or in between classes.

This law was enacted as a public health measure in response to growing concerns regarding the impact of excessive device and social media use on adolescents. Reducing access to personal internet-enabled devices during the school day is intended to support student learning, improve focus, and increase opportunities for meaningful, in-person interactions with peers and school staff.

Staying connected with your child:

We recognize that many families may have grown accustomed to communicating directly with their children during the school day. To support this transition, we encourage the following:

- In case of an emergency, please contact the school's main office, and staff will ensure messages are delivered promptly.
- Students may access the main office if they need to contact a parent or caregiver.
- Students may continue to use their district-issued email accounts to communicate with their parents as appropriate.

We understand that this policy may represent a change from the regular routines of students and families. However, it reflects a shared commitment to supporting students' academic success, social development, and overall well-being.

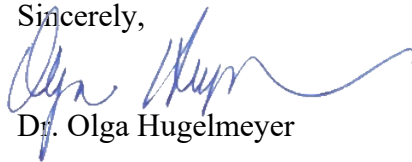
Office of the Superintendent of Schools

In the coming weeks leading up to the start of the 2026-2027 school year, we will be providing additional information and opportunities to learn more about our cell phone policy, including a quick reference guide, parent workshops, and social media posts. You will be able to find this information as we release it onto our district website onto our Back to School Resources page (<https://www.epsnj.org/students-and-families/back-to-school-parent-resources>) by clicking on the “New Cell Phone/Personal Devices Policy” icon.

We appreciate your partnership as we implement this policy and work together to foster a focused, supportive, and healthy learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer