SUBJECT: CELL PHONES

The Board of Education recognizes that students may have personal electronic devices that can perform different functions such as smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, or other devices capable of connecting to the internet. The District prohibits students from using such devices during the instructional day both in the building and on school grounds.

Communication with Parents/Persons in Parental Relation

During the school day, to minimize distractions, parents may contact their children via the following methods:

1. Calling the school office.
2. Messaging students and/or student's teacher on a District approved ***communication*** ~~learning management~~ platform.

Additionally, students may contact their parents via the following methods:

1. Requesting to go to the school office to call.
2. Messaging parents on a District approved ***communication*** ~~learning management~~ platform.

The District will notify parents in writing of these options at the beginning of each year or upon enrollment.

Device Access and Storage

As required by Education Law §2803, this policy prohibits student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds unless under an exception.

1. At the elementary level, student devices must be stored in a location designated by the building principal.

2. At the middle school level, student devices must be stored in student lockers prior to students entering their homeroom (or prior to the student attending their first class of the day).

3. At the high school level, student devices must be stored in student lockers prior to students entering their homeroom (or prior to the student attending their first class of the day).

SUBJECT: CELL PHONES [continued]

Exceptions for Specific Purposes

Use of internet-enabled devices must be permitted where included in a student's Individualized Education Program, Section 504 plan, or where required by law. Additionally, student use of otherwise prohibited devices during the school day on school grounds may be permitted:

1. If authorized by a teacher, principal, the Superintendent, or other personnel as the Superintendent may designate, for a specific educational purpose;

2. Where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare;

3. In the event of an emergency, as determined by teachers or administrators;

4. For translation services

5. 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 wellbeing of a family member.

Parents may request an exception for their children to use internet-enabled devices during the school day as listed above. Requests must be made to the building principal, and for healthcare exceptions, must include documentation from an appropriate healthcare professional.

Enforcement, Consequences and Reporting

Enforcement of this policy is chiefly the responsibility of building administrative staff; however, all designated employees are expected to assist in enforcement. Students will be reminded of this policy on the first day of school and throughout the school year.

For students out of compliance with this policy, the device will be held in the school office until the end of the school day. The first time this happens, the device will be returned at the end of the school day, and the parents will be notified. The second time this occurs, the student(s) will provide the device upon arrival to a school official and it will be returned at the end of the school day for a period of up to five (5) days. For further instances student(s) will be subject to consequences under the District's code of conduct and the device will be held in the office for a minimum of five (5) days.

The District will exercise reasonable care to maintain the security of devices that are held by the District but cannot guarantee the devices will be secure. For students with exceptions under this policy, the District will examine alternative ways to achieve the purpose of the exception, including different storage or access provisions.

SUBJECT: CELL PHONES [continued]

Administrators will also discuss the aims of this policy with students and their parents, the benefits of a distraction-free environment, the reasons the student had difficulty following this policy, and how the District can help the student contribute to a distraction-free environment.

The District may not impose suspension from school if the sole ground for the suspension is that the student accessed an internet-enabled device as prohibited by this policy. However, the District may utilize consequences under the District's Code of Conduct, including detention, in-school-suspension, and exclusion from extracurricular activities. The District may also utilize assignments on the detrimental impact of social media on mental health, smartphones in school, or other relevant topics.

Some uses of personal electronic devices may constitute a violation of the District's Code of Conduct or other District policies, and in some instances, the law. The District will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Beginning on September 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the District will publish an annual report on its website detailing the enforcement of this policy over the past year, including non-identifiable demographic information of students who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance with this policy, and an analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement of this policy. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, the report will include a plan to mitigate such disparate enforcement.

Electronic Devices and Testing

To ensure the integrity of testing, in accordance with state guidelines, students may not bring cell phones or other electronic devices into classrooms or other exam locations during state assessments. Teachers may grant specific permission for electronic device usage during tests other than state assessments.

Test proctors, monitors and school officials have the right to collect cell phones and other prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test and to hold them for the duration of the test taking time. Admission to the test will be prohibited to any student who has a cell phone or other electronic device in their possession and does not relinquish it.

Students with Individualized Education Plans or Section 504 Plan, or documentation from medical practitioners specifically requiring the use of electronic devices may do so as specified.

SUBJECT: CELL PHONES [continued]

Policy Distribution and Translation

As required by law, the District will post this policy in a clearly visible and accessible location on its website.

Cross-ref:

8270, Instructional Use of Computers
8273 Misuse/Abuse of Software and/or Electronic Communications Systems
8274, Acceptable Computer and Internet Use Policy
8275 , Internet Safety/ Internet Content Filtering Policy
7400.1, 7400.2, 7400.3 , Code of Conduct

Ref:
Education Law §2803
Price v. New York City Board of Education, 51 A.D.3d 277, Iv. to appeal denied, 11 N.Y.3d 702 (2008) (District may ban possession of cell phones on school property)
NYSED, Prohibition of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices in New York State Assessments

Adopted: 7/21/25; *First Reading 8/19/26*

SUBJECT: ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS

The Athletic Placement Process was created to provide a mechanism for qualified seventh and eighth grade students to participate safely at an appropriate level of competition based upon physical and emotional readiness and athletic ability rather than age and grade alone. This allows for the most exceptional athletes in seventh and eighth grade who have satisfied all requirements to be considered for high school level teams. If qualified and selected after tryouts, the student may participate on the appropriate higher-level team.

The decision of whether a student is qualified and if the student makes the team based upon his or her tryout performance shall be made only after careful deliberation and shall not be used to promote athletes for the sole purpose of filling positions on varsity and junior varsity teams.

The Board approved the use of the Athletic Placement Process according to New York State Public High School Athletic Association regulations and the conditions outlined below.

A student becomes a qualified student under the Athletic Placement Process if he or she ***is invited by the Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health and*** meets the following criteria:

1. Parent/Guardian Permission and Meeting
2. Administrative Approval
3. Medical Clearance ***(including the submission of an updated health history if the health examination was conducted more than 30 days before the start of the sports season, or if the exam will expire during the season)***
4. ~~Sport Skill~~ ***Individual Judgment*** Evaluation ***(student successfully demonstrates sufficient personal and social responsibility, sport-specific skill development, knowledge of the game, and physical fitness to be eligible during team selection.)***
5. ~~Physical Fitness Testing~~

If a student does not meet one of the criteria above, the student is not qualified pursuant to the Athletic Placement Process to try out for a team at the high school.

The District shall further consider the likelihood that a student would be more susceptible to injury based on factors such as age, kinematics/biomechanics, body composition, previous injury, grade of competition, training load, position played, competition or practice, strength, player experience, checking/tackling/body contact and environmental factors. Criteria for determining whether students will be selected to participate in the team shall be the same for all students who qualify to try out.

SUBJECT: ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS [continued]

A seventh or eighth grade student may try out for a Junior Varsity or Varsity team if he or she is qualified pursuant to the Athletic Placement Process and meets the conditions for individual and team sports outlined below:

a) Individual Sports

1. When no Junior Varsity team exists, the qualified students under the Athletic Placement Process may try out for the Varsity level.

2. When a Junior Varsity team exists, the qualified students under the Athletic Placement Process may try out for the Junior Varsity level. If a qualified student under the Athletic Placement Procedure meets the requirements set forth in "(b)(2)(a-c)" below, then he or she may try out for the Varsity level.

b) Team Sports

1. Seventh and eighth grade students qualified under the Athletic Placement Process may only try out for the Junior Varsity level. An exception may be made for select eighth grade students who meet the criteria outlined in "2" below.

2. Eighth grade students who meet the requirements set forth in (a)-(c) below and qualify under the Athletic Placement Process will be permitted to try out for a Varsity level team:

   (a) Student athlete participated at the Junior Varsity level as a seventh-grade student;

   (b) Student athlete statistically performed at a high level on the Junior Varsity team;

   (c) Student athlete receives a positive recommendation from the Junior Varsity coach

The Board directs that the Superintendent implement appropriate procedures for the Athletic Placement Process and that the Athletic Department maintain a file of those students deemed eligible as a result of such procedures.

For additional information please visit www.nysed.gov/standards-instruction/athletics.

Revised: 2/21/91; 1221/00; 2/21/08; 3/17/16; 6/20/19; *First Reading 8/19/26*