



Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices

Partnering with Families to Support Safe,
Healthy, & Purposeful Technology Use





Why Are We Making This Change?

Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, New Jersey law requires every public school district to implement a bell-to-bell policy limiting student use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day.

Our goal is to:

- Increase student focus
- Improve learning
- Strengthen social connections
- Promote student well-being
- Create distraction-free classrooms





Why This Matters:

Research shows that reducing personal device use during school can:

- Improve attention
- Increase classroom participation
- Reduce distractions
- Improve peer relationships
- Reduce anxiety associated with excessive social media use
- Improve school climate

Focus → Learning → Connection





What Does "Bell-to-Bell" Mean?

The policy applies:

- Beginning of school
- Classroom instruction
- Passing periods
- Lunch
- Until dismissal

Students keep personal internet-enabled devices turned off and stored throughout the school day unless an approved exception applies.





What Devices Are Included?

Internet-enabled devices include:

- Cell phones
- Smart watches
- Tablets
- Smart glasses
- Internet-connected earbuds

District-issued Chromebooks remain available for instruction.





What Will Students Still Use?

Students will continue using:

- District Chromebooks
- Classroom technology
- Educational software
- Teacher-directed digital resource

Only district-approved websites and digital resources will remain accessible on district issued chromebooks.





How Will This Work in Ocean Township?

Students will:

- Arrive with phones powered off
- Store devices in backpacks
- Keep devices put away throughout the day





Student Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Arrive prepared to learn
- Keep devices off
- Follow staff directions
- Respect instructional time
- Help maintain a positive learning environment





Student Expectations Grades K-4

Personal internet-enabled devices are not permitted in the elementary schools of the Township of Ocean School District. If a student has a medical condition that requires the use of a personal internet-enabled device, the school nurse must be notified, and appropriate medical documentation must be provided.





Student Expectations Grades 5-8

Students are expected to:

- Store all personal internet-enabled devices in assigned lockers
- All phone calls can be made in any of the following offices:
 - Main office
 - 5th grade office
 - Guidance office
- If a student has a medical condition that requires the use of a personal internet-enabled device, the school nurse must be notified, and appropriate medical documentation must be provided.





Student Expectations Grades 9-12

Students are expected to:

- Turn off devices upon entry to school. Store all personal internet-enabled devices in classroom storage areas; secure them during passing and lunch.
- Make important/necessary phone calls in the following offices:
 - Main office
 - School Counseling
- Report the need to use a personal internet-enabled device to the school nurse, and provide appropriate medical documentation to support the request.





Are There Exceptions?

Yes- Each school will have a process for students or parents to request a waiver for special circumstances requiring the use of a personal internet-enabled device during the school day. Requests will be reviewed on an individual basis

Special circumstances may include:

- IEP accommodations
- 504 Plans
- Medical needs
- Translation services
- Student caregiver responsibilities





Emergency Communication

During the school day:
Parents should contact the school office.

School staff will:

- Deliver messages
- Contact students promptly
- Follow district emergency procedures

During emergencies:
District communication will come through official notification systems.





How Families Can Help?

Parents can support success by:

- Charging district devices nightly
- Talking about healthy technology habits
- Reinforcing school expectations
- Contacting the office during the school day
- Modeling balanced technology use
- Encouraging face-to-face conversations





Our Shared Commitment

School + Home = Student Success

Together we will create:

- Focused classrooms
- Respectful learning environments
- Healthy technology habits
- Positive relationships
- Student success





Thank you for partnering
with Township of Ocean
Schools.

