Mount Arlington
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mount Arlington Board of Education
235 Howard Blvd
Mount Arlington, NJ 07901

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jessica Neu
973-398-4400 x111

School Business Administrator
Mrs. Robin Tedesco
973-770-7140

Principal
Mrs. Marina Williams
973-398-4400 x122

August 2026

Notice of Revised Electronic Communication Device Policy: 2026–2027 School Year

Dear Mount Arlington Public Schools Families,

We would like to inform you of an important revision to the Mount Arlington Public Schools Student Use of Internet Enabled Device Policy. These revisions have been adopted by the Mount Arlington Board of Education to align with New Jersey's recently enacted Bell-to-Bell legislation (P.L. 2025, c.195) and the NJDOE guidance document for schools, which became effective for all public school districts beginning with the 2026–2027 school year. The purpose of this legislation is to create a safe, focused, and distraction-free learning environment that promotes student engagement, academic achievement, social interaction, and overall student well-being.

Key Revisions for the 2026–2027 School Year

Effective on the first day of school:

- All students in grades Kindergarten through 8 who bring a cellular phone or any personal internet-enabled device with cellular capabilities (including smartphones, smartwatches capable of communication, or similar devices) to school must keep the device powered off or silenced and *stored in their backpack* from the start of the school day bell until the dismissal bell.
- Personal devices may not be used during lunch, recess, passing periods, or any other time during the school day and during after school sponsored activities.
- Students are encouraged to leave these devices at home whenever possible. The District is not responsible for the security or damage to a personally owned device.
- Families who need to communicate with their child during the school day should contact the appropriate school main office. Likewise, if a student needs to contact a parent or guardian during the school day, school staff will assist the student in doing so through the school office.

These revisions are intended to support a positive learning environment while also helping to reduce distractions, improve student engagement, strengthen peer interactions, and enhance the safety and security of our schools.

Medical Accommodations

The District recognizes that some students require the use of a cellular phone or other internet-enabled device for documented medical purposes, such as monitoring diabetes or other health-related conditions.

If your child has a documented medical need requiring access to a personal device during the school day, we will work collaboratively with parents/guardians, the school nurse, Child Study Team, and, when appropriate, the student's healthcare provider to develop or revise an Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP), Section 504 Plan, or Individualized Education Program (IEP), as applicable, to ensure the student's medical needs are safely and appropriately accommodated in accordance with state law.

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We appreciate your partnership and support as we implement these changes. Working together, we can provide a learning environment where students are fully engaged, connected with their classmates, and focused on learning throughout the school day. Students are expected to follow the policy throughout the school day. When a student does not comply with the policy, school staff will first work with the student to reinforce expectations and encourage appropriate decision-making. Repeated or more significant violations of the policy may result in disciplinary action consistent with the Mount Arlington Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. Our approach will remain educational and restorative whenever appropriate, with the goal of helping students develop responsible habits while maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone.

If you have any questions regarding the revised Policy #5516. STUDENT USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES (M), please contact your child's principal, Ms. Marina Williams, or the Superintendent's Office.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica Neu
Superintendent of Schools
Mount Arlington Public Schools