

Annual Enforcement Report: Distraction-Free Schools Policy Report (NYS Education Law § 2803)

Erie 1 BOCES Reporting Period: 2025–2026

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In compliance with New York State Education Law Section 2803, passed in the Fiscal Year 2026 state budget, Erie 1 BOCES implemented its updated Distraction-Free Schools Policy for the 2025–2026 school year. This "bell-to-bell" mandate requires all internet-enabled personal devices (including smartphones, smartwatches, and tablets) to be turned off and securely stored from the beginning to the end of the instructional day.

The primary objectives of this policy are to maximize academic focus, reduce digital distractions, improve students' mental wellness, and foster real-world social connections. As mandated by state law, the district follows a progressive, educational, and non-exclusionary disciplinary framework; no student may be suspended solely for a violation of this policy.

This annual report provides a transparent, data-driven overview of policy enforcement across our schools, evaluates potential demographic disparities, and outlines corrective measures where necessary.

1. Policy Overview (For additional details please visit www.e1b.org/distractionfree.)

Student use of personal cell phones, internet-enabled devices and associated devices such as headphones/headsets (ex. Bluetooth enabled headphones) are prohibited during the entire school day, including all instructional and non-instructional times (e.g., homeroom, lunch, recess, study halls, passing time). This may include but is not limited to: smartphones, flip phones, TracFone's, tablets, smartwatches, gaming consoles, music devices or other devices capable of connecting to the Internet and enabling the user to access content on the Internet, including social media applications.

Exceptions under which students may use their personal devices are as follows:

- When authorized by building administration for a specific educational purpose or in the event of an emergency.
- For healthcare needs as required for tracking health conditions or medical purposes as per an Individual Health Care Plan (ex: Diabetes monitoring).
- As a translation service as necessary for English Language Learners.
- On a case-by-case basis for student caregivers responsible for the well-being of a family member. Such allowances will only be permitted by a school administrator in consultation with a school social worker, school counselor or school psychologist.

- When required if the use of the device is mandated by law.
- When specified in a student's Individualized Education Plan or 504 plan, a structured process will be developed.

2. Enforcement Summary

Measure	Number
Total Student Enrollment	3,109
Students Receiving at Least One Violation	136
Total Violations Recorded	198
Verbal Warnings	97
Device Confiscations	39
Parent Notifications	14
Detentions	11
Other Disciplinary Actions	0

3. Demographic Analysis

Non-identifiable demographic information regarding students who faced disciplinary action for noncompliance with the policy.

Total Student Enrollment: 3,109

Demographic Group	Enrollment	Students Disciplined
Female	42%	3%
Male	58%	5%
Students with Disabilities	46%	5%
Economically Disadvantaged	N/A	N/A
English Language Learners	0%	0%
White	77%	4%
Black/African American	11%	6%
Hispanic/Latino	5%	5%
Asian	4%	4%
Multiracial	2%	5%
Other	1%	0%

4. Findings and Interpretation

Based on our current data, there are no identified trends or disparities. The district will continue with its policy enforcement by focusing on educating students and using preventative measures.

5. Statistical Significance Determination

Was a statistically significant disparate impact identified?

☒ No

6. Mitigation Action Plan (Complete Only if Required)

N/A