Annual Distraction-Free Schools Policy Enforcement Report

Reporting Year: _____2025-2026_____
District/BOCES: _____Barker CSD_____
Date Published: _____September 1, 2026_____

1. Policy Overview

Provide a brief description of the distraction-free schools policy, including grades covered, devices covered, enforcement expectations, and any notable implementation details.

Per Policy #7316: USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES AND CELL PHONES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

The District consulted with local stakeholders including employee organizations representing each bargaining unit, parents, and students to develop this policy to prohibit the use of Internet-enabled devices and cell phones by students during the school day on school grounds. This policy aims to ensure that students remain focused on their academic responsibilities throughout the school day, which includes all instructional and non-instructional periods such as homeroom, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time. For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply: a) "Internet-enabled devices" means and includes any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, or other device capable of connecting to the Internet and enabling the user to access content on the Internet, including social media applications; "Internet-enabled devices" does not include: 1. Non-Internet-enabled devices such as communication devices not capable of connecting to the Internet or enabling the user to access content on the Internet; or 2. Internet-enabled devices supplied by the District, charter school, or Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) that are used for an educational purpose. b) "Cell phones" means non-smartphones capable of sending or receiving phone calls, text messages, and other digital form of communication. c) "School day" means the entirety of every instructional day as required by subdivision 7 of the Education Law Section 3604 during all instructional time and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time. d) "School grounds" means in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a district elementary, intermediate, junior high, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a BOCES facility. Students are generally prohibited from using Internet-enabled devices and cell phones during the school day anywhere on school grounds. 18 However, students may be authorized to use an Internet-enabled device or cell phone during the school day on school grounds: a) If authorized by a teacher, principal, or the District for a specific educational purpose; b) Where necessary for the management of a student's health care; c) In the event of an emergency; d) For translation services; e) 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 well-being of a family member; or f) Where required by law. Students must be permitted to use an Internet-enabled device or cell phone where the use is included in the student's: a) Individualized Education Program (IEP); or b) Section 504 Plan.

On-Site Storage of Internet-Enabled Devices Including Cell Phones Students must store their Internet-enabled devices in designated on-site storage areas during the school day. On-site storage areas include student lockers. The designated on-site storage areas must be easily accessible to students and provide adequate security to ensure the safekeeping of the student's devices. The District will communicate the procedures for storing and retrieving devices, ensuring that students understand their responsibilities in using the on site storage facilities provided.

Methods for Parents to Contact Students During the School Day To accommodate necessary communication, parents or persons in parental relation may use the following methods to contact their student during school hours while adhering to this policy: a) School Office Phone: Parents or persons in parental relation may call the school's main office, and the office staff can relay messages to the student or call the student to the office to speak with their parent or person in parental relation. b) Email: Parents may email their student through the district provided email that is accessible on district issued student Chromebooks during the school day. 19 Parents and persons in parental relation will be notified in writing of the methods that are available for contacting their student during school hours upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year.

Student Discipline for Accessing Internet-Enabled Devices and Cell Phones During the School Day Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary or remedial action, as determined appropriate by the District, including but not limited to potential confiscation of devices, detention, or other methods in accordance with district guidelines. While students may not be suspended from school where the sole reason is that the student accessed a personal electronic/internet enabled device or cell phone on a single occasion in violation this policy, a pattern of insubordination in violation of this policy and/or engaging in other misconduct while utilizing a personal electronic/internet enabled device or cell phone in violation of the Code of Conduct or Board of Education policy may result in discipline, up to and including suspension from school. For the first offense of a student using a device that violates this policy, the student's phone shall be confiscated by staff and held in the main office until the end of the day when the student can retrieve the phone. For the second offense of a student using a device that violates this policy, the student's phone shall be confiscated by staff and held in the main office until a parent retrieves the phone. For a third and subsequent offenses of a student using a device that violates this policy, the student's phone shall be confiscated by staff and held in the main office until a parent retrieves the phone and the student shall serve a day of in school suspension.

2. Enforcement Summary

Measure	Number
Total Student Enrollment	626
Students Receiving at Least One Violation	91
Total Violations Recorded	91
Verbal Warnings	0
Device Confiscations	91
Parent Notifications	91
Detentions	0
Other Disciplinary Actions	13

3. Demographic Analysis

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

Demographic Group	Enrollment %	Students Disciplined %	Difference
Female	48	62	
Male	52	48	
Students with Disabilities	16	9	
Economically Disadvantaged	36	5	
English Language Learners	2	0	
White	78	83	
Black/African American	1	1	
Hispanic/Latino	5	8	
Asian	1	1	
Multiracial	6	5	
Other			

4. Findings and Interpretation

Describe trends observed in the data, identify any disparities, discuss possible contributing factors, and explain how the district/BOCES will continue monitoring enforcement practices. Review of the available demographic data identified some differences between student enrollment and the percentage of students disciplined. Female students represent approximately 48% of District enrollment but accounted for approximately 62% of students disciplined, indicating a higher representation among students receiving violations. Male students represent approximately 52% of enrollment and accounted for approximately 48% of students disciplined. Students with disabilities represent approximately 16% of enrollment but approximately 9% of students disciplined, indicating that students with disabilities were not disproportionately represented in enforcement actions based on the available data. English Language Learners represent approximately 2% of enrollment and accounted for no reported disciplinary actions under the policy.

The differences observed in the data should be interpreted cautiously, particularly during the initial year of implementation. Possible contributing factors may include differences in student device-use patterns, frequency of observed violations, student compliance following initial intervention, and the relatively small number of students within some demographic groups. The data alone do not establish that differences in enforcement resulted from inconsistent or inequitable application of the policy.

The District will continue to monitor enforcement practices by reviewing violation data and disciplinary responses throughout the school year. Particular attention will be given to patterns by gender, disability status, race/ethnicity, economic status, and English Language Learner status, as well as the frequency of repeat violations and the types of consequences assigned. The District will periodically compare enforcement data with overall student enrollment demographics to identify emerging patterns or potential disparities.

If disproportionate patterns emerge, the District will review implementation practices to determine whether additional staff guidance, clarification of enforcement procedures, student or family education, or other corrective measures are warranted. Continued monitoring will support consistent application of the policy across students and ensure that enforcement practices remain fair, equitable, and aligned with District policy.

5. Statistical Significance Determination

Was a statistically significant disparate impact identified?

☐ Yes ☒ No

6. Mitigation Action Plan (Complete Only if Required)

Area of Concern	Root Cause Analysis	Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible Party

Board/Administrative Certification

I certify that this report has been reviewed and published in accordance with the requirements of New York State Education Law regarding distraction-free schools policy enforcement reporting.

Administrator Name/Title: Christian Cornwell Interim Superintendent

Signature: _____

Date: 9/1/2026