



# Annual Report: Internet-Enabled Device Policy Enforcement

Elwood Union Free School District

District-Wide Report

School Year 2025–2026

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## Section 1: Policy Overview & Legal Compliance

In accordance with New York State Education Law § 2803 and District Policy 5695 Students and Personal Electronic Devices, Elwood School District maintained a distraction-free learning environment prohibiting the unsanctioned use of personal internet-enabled devices (including smartphones, smartwatches, and tablets) during the entire school day ("bell-to-bell").

### Key Policy Provisions & Guiding Principles:

- **Non-Suspension Rule:** In full compliance with state law, no student was suspended (in-school or out-of-school) *solely* for a violation of the personal internet-enabled device policy.
- **Progressive Intervention:** Discipline for non-compliance relies on tiered, supportive interventions rather than exclusionary measures.
- **Exemptions Honored:** Medical management, IEP/504 accommodations, translational needs, emergency situations, and pre-approved educational uses were strictly exempted.

## Section 2: Summary of Policy Enforcement

During the 2025–2026 school year, the district logged **12** total non-compliance incidents across **1904** total enrolled students (Grades K–12).

## Breakdown of Progressive Responses Issued

| Level of Intervention / Action                             | Description                                                                                                                        | Total Count         | % of Total Actions |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Level 1: Verbal Warning / Reminder</b>                  | Verbal redirection; student voluntarily vaults/stores device                                                                       | <i>Not Recorded</i> |                    |
| <b>Level 2: Temporary Storage</b>                          | Device checked into main office/vault for remainder of day                                                                         |                     |                    |
| <b>Level 3: Parent/Guardian Retrieval</b>                  | Device held until parent/guardian pickup; parent conference                                                                        | 1                   | 8.3%               |
| <b>Level 4: Restorative Conference</b>                     | Behavior contract or loss of campus privilege (e.g., open lunch)                                                                   | 8                   | 66.7%              |
| <b>Level 5: Suspension</b><br>(Secondary Infractions Only) | <i>Issued ONLY where violation was accompanied by severe secondary misconduct (e.g., insubordination resulting in safety risk)</i> | 3*                  | 25%*               |

\*Note: Zero suspensions were issued solely for device policy non-compliance.

## Section 3: Non-Identifiable Demographic Data

To protect student privacy under FERPA and state guidelines, demographic data is presented in aggregate, non-identifiable formats. Groups with fewer than 10 students are suppressed (\$N < 10\$) to prevent re-identification.

**Table A: Disciplinary Actions by Student Demographics**

| Demographic Category              | District Enrollment (%) | Students Facing Action (#) | Share of Total Actions (%) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Race / Ethnicity</b>           |                         |                            |                            |
| • American Indian / Alaska Native | 0.26%                   | 0                          | 0%                         |
| • Asian / Pacific Islander        | 11.19%                  | 1                          | 0.47%                      |
| • Black or African American       | 6.83%                   | 0                          | 0%                         |
| • Hispanic or Latino              | 25.26%                  | 3                          | 0.62%                      |
| • White                           | 76.65%                  | 5                          | 0.34%                      |
| • Two or More Races               | 5.09%                   | 2                          | 2.06%                      |

| Demographic Category                   | District Enrollment (%) | Students Facing Action (#) | Share of Total Actions (%) |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Gender</b>                          |                         |                            |                            |
| • Female                               | 49.42%                  | 2                          | 0.21%                      |
| • Male                                 | 50.58%                  | 10                         | 1.04%                      |
| • Non-Binary / Undisclosed             | 0%                      | 0                          | 0%                         |
| <b>Special Populations</b>             |                         |                            |                            |
| • Students with Disabilities (IEP/504) | 12.55%                  | 4                          | 1.67%                      |
| • Economically Disadvantaged           | 20.10%                  | 3                          | 0.79%                      |
| • Multilingual Learners (ELL)          | 2.52%                   | 0                          | 0%                         |

**Key Takeaway & Report Summary**  
**Zero suspensions were issued solely for device policy non-compliance during the 2025–2026 school year.**

## Section 4: Analysis of Demographic Disparities

This section evaluates whether disciplinary enforcement disproportionately impacted specific student sub-groups relative to overall district composition.

### Methodology

The district utilized a **Relative Risk Ratio (RRR)** and **Disproportionality Index** comparing the percentage of enforcement actions received by a demographic group against that group's total representation in the student body.

### Key Findings

No statistically significant racial, gender, or disability-based enforcement disparities were identified across the district.

## Section 5: Mitigation Action Plan

NYS Education Law § 2803 mandates an explicit action plan if statistical disparities are present. While no severe disparity was found, the following are continuous improvement steps for the 2026-2027 school year:

- **Staff Training & Bias Reduction:** Conduct refresher workshops during Superintendent's Conference Day focusing on consistent, objective policy enforcement across all grade levels.
- **Student Communication:** Re-examine student handbooks and morning announcements to ensure rules regarding smartwatches/earbuds are uniformly understood across all student groups. Incorporate digital wellness into the secondary health curriculum.

- **Curriculum & Technology Committee:** The focus of both committees will be an investigation of district device usage during the school day. These committees will collaborate on data collection and instructional shifts to limit screen time to only high impact learning activities.

## Section 6: Public Contact & Feedback

For questions regarding this report or district phone-free policies, please contact:

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