



ARDSLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT Annual Distraction-Free Schools Policy Enforcement Report¹

Reporting Year: 2025-26
District/BOCES: Ardsley UFSD
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.

District Policy 7316

SUBJECT: USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Roles and Responsibilities

Non-instructional use of Internet-enabled devices by students is generally prohibited on school grounds during the school day. Non-instructional use includes texting, calling, and otherwise communicating with others. Other non-instructional uses include Internet searches (except in connection with approved classroom activities), listening to music, watching videos, and accessing social media or other online content. Notwithstanding the foregoing, students may be authorized by a teacher or school administrator to use Internet-enabled devices on school grounds during the school day:

- a. Where necessary to manage a student's health care;
- b. In the event of an emergency, as determined by a teacher or school administrator (e.g., a situation posing a threat to student safety or requiring unplanned evacuation/dismissal from school);
- c. Where necessary to access language translation services; or
- d. On a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, social worker, or counselor, for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member.

A parent or person in parental relation must submit an advance written request to the building principal to authorize a student to use Internet-enabled devices under clause a., c., or d. above. A request under clause a) shall also include documentation substantiating the request from a health care professional involved in the student's treatment or care.



Students must be permitted to use Internet-enabled devices on school grounds during the school day where such use is:

- a. Included in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan; or
- b. Required by law.

The use of personal technology is expressly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, health offices, and any other areas where a person has a reasonable expectation of personal privacy, unless authorized by an administrator.

On-Site Storage

As the preferred method of compliance with this policy, students are encouraged not to bring Internet-enabled devices to school. Students who choose to bring Internet-enabled devices onto school grounds must power the devices off or disable online connectivity to the devices (e.g., "airplane mode" will suffice, but merely silencing or disabling notifications will not) and store the devices in designated on-site storage areas while on school grounds during the school day. On-site storage areas may include: student lockers, designated storage bins or pockets/pouches in classrooms, or designated storage areas in one or more central locations (e.g., main office). On-site storage may also be permitted in backpacks, provided the devices remain out of sight in an internal/enclosed compartment (i.e., not externally visible) in addition to being powered off or without online connectivity.

Each building principal will determine the specific method(s) for on-site storage that are available to students in their building. In determining such option(s), the principal will prioritize the following objectives, consistent with the intent of this policy:

- a. Promoting compliance with the policy;
- b. Ensuring consistency of compliance and enforcement throughout the building;
- c. Minimizing the impact on instructional time and other resources during the school day;
- d. Facilitating access to devices by students for permitted (instructional and non-instructional) uses during the school day; and
- e. Providing appropriate security for devices.

Even where a building-level policy permits on-site storage within backpacks, Internet-enabled devices within individual classrooms must be stored in designated bins or pockets/pouches unless the teacher has expressly authorized the devices to be stored within backpacks.

Parental Communication with Students During the School Day

To accommodate necessary communication, the methods for parents or persons in parental relation to contact their student(s) during the school day may include:

- 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 ask the student to come to the office to speak with their parent or person in parental relations.



- b. Designated School Email Address: Parents or persons in parental relation may send an email to a designated school email address, and the school can relay the message to the students.

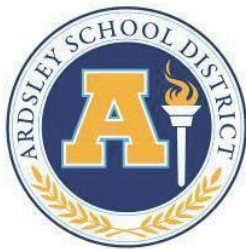
2. Enforcement Summary

Measure	Number	
1. Total Student Enrollment	1,520 (10/1/2025)	
2. Students Receiving at Least One Violation	AMS: 56 students	AHS: 62 Students
3. Total Violations Recorded	AMS: 66 violations	AHS: 120 violations
4. Verbal Warnings	AMS: 48 verbal warnings	AHS: 162 verbal warnings
5. Device Confiscations	AMS: 18 confiscations	AHS: 62 confiscations
6. Parent Notifications	AMS: 18 notifications	AHS: 62 notifications
7. Detentions	AMS: 0 detention	AHS: 5 detentions
8. Other Disciplinary Actions	AMS: N/A	AHS: N/A

3. Demographic Information

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

Demographic Group	Enrollment %	Students Disciplined %	Difference
Female	46%	41%	-5
Male	54%	59%	+5
Students with Disabilities	16%	18%	+2
Economically Disadvantaged	2%	N/A	-2
English Language Learners	2%	NA	-2
White	53%	64%	+11
Black/African American	4%	1%	-3
Hispanic/Latino	15%	18%	+3
Asian	22%	15%	-7
Multiracial	8%	2%	-3
Other	>1%	N/A	N/A



4. Findings and Interpretation

Describe trends observed in the data, identify any disparities, discuss possible contributing factors, and explain how the district will continue monitoring enforcement practices.

Overall Implementation

1. Students are fully aware of the policy and expectations.
2. Students are keeping their devices in their backpacks most of the time at AHS.
3. Students continue keeping their devices in their lockers at AHS as they have done for multiple school years.
4. Most students are not utilizing their cell phones during the school day.
5. Confiscating phones was infrequent, but was done after a verbal warning.
6. Incidents of students accessing devices inappropriately increased during the course of the year, so additional confiscations occurred in the Spring to try to reverse that trend.
7. In general students are not using their phone during instruction.

Challenges & Hurdles

1. Enforcement is the biggest challenge by far. There are so many students and cell phones that it is difficult to monitor and therefore enforce.
2. When cell phones are out, in most cases, students are simply asked to put their devices away as confiscation is time-consuming and potentially disruptive.
3. Monitoring Internet searching on school issued devices is also a challenge, but we are working to increase the monitoring of this as well.

5. Statistical Significance Determination

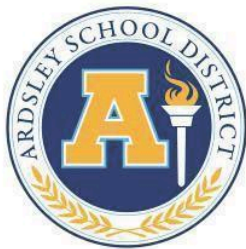
Was a statistically significant disparate impact identified?

No. Less than 8% of our student population between the two schools were charged with any violation of the policy. Due to the very small sample size, it is difficult to draw any definitive conclusion about a significant impact to any particular demographic group.

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: Matthew J. Block Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools



Signature: Matthew J Block

Date: September 1, 2026