

Annual Reports on Distraction-Free Schools Policy Enforcement

At Pelham Middle School and Pelham Memorial High School, we follow the Distraction-Free Schools Policy and enforce the terms through our Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. As per New York State Law and our District's [Digital Device Use Policy](#), students are prohibited from using personal internet-enabled devices (including but not limited to smartphones, smartwatches, Metaglasses, tablets, and personal laptops) during the school day anywhere on school grounds (unless explicitly authorized under "Exceptions" below). Phones must be stored in a student's personal locker or a designated cell phone locker during school hours. Any student seen using a cell phone on school grounds during school hours will have the phone confiscated and brought to the main office.

Students who use internet-enabled devices will be subject to disciplinary consequences including, but not limited to: contact with parents/guardians, confiscation, and detention. Students using an internet-enabled device in the commission of a violation of the District's Code of Conduct or Acceptable Use Policy may result in additional consequences. The use of any internet-enabled device to record audio or video in a bathroom or locker room or in any other sensitive area is a serious invasion of privacy that may be subject to discipline and possibly police referral. Students may **never** take photos or videos in the classroom or of others without the permission of the teacher or other individual(s) involved.

In summary, through our Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, we outline for students our policy and procedures related to maintaining Distraction-Free Schools. We ensure that families understand that:

1. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones or electronic devices.
2. Cell phones/smartwatches/Metaglasses are NOT to be used during school hours. Anyone seen using one during school hours will have it confiscated and brought to the school office. Warnings or disciplinary consequences will be applied.
3. Students may not bring in any electronic devices (laptops, iPads, e-readers, etc.) other than those provided to them by the District.
4. Students are reminded that the use of a camera in the bathrooms or locker rooms is a serious violation of other people's privacy and may make them subject to police referral in addition to school disciplinary actions.

There are, however, exceptions to the above procedures. Student use of internet-enabled devices may be permitted if such use is explicitly included in the student's Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan; if authorized by the principal for a specific educational purpose; when necessary for a student's healthcare management based on medical documentation; for translation services, upon prior written authorization by the principal; and in certain other circumstances (see the District's [Digital Device Use Policy](#) for details).

During the 2025-2026 school year, Pelham Middle School's enforcement of the policy was strict and well received by families and students. Students maintained their cell phones in their lockers during the school day. Repercussions for breaking our Internet Enabled Device rules ranged from warnings, detentions during lunch or after school, parental/guardian pick up of the device, and restorative practices such as conversations with students and support with counselors. A total of twenty students violated the policy and received disciplinary consequences during the 2025-2026 school year at PMS.

PMS	Male 18	Female 2	General Education 14	Special Education 3	504 3	Declassified 0	ENL 0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	1	0	1 male	0	0	0	0
Multiracial	2	0	1 male	0	1 male	0	0
White	14	2	11 10 male 1 female	3 2 male 1 female	2 male	0	0
American Indian	1	0	1 male	0	0	0	0
Native Alaskan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There were 563 disciplinary referrals for digital device use at PMHS during the 2025-2026 school year; devices were confiscated and returned to the student or parent/guardian at the end of the day in each of these cases. Of those referrals, there were 315 unique students. Of the 563 referrals, 221 warnings were issued and 342 consequences (detention or alternative methods) were issued.

Below are the demographics from the 342 instances in which detention or alternative methods were used as consequences. These demographics are not unique; that is, a student is counted **each time** they were referred.

PMHS	Male 232	Female 110	General Education 205	Special Education 136	504 57	Declassified 3	ENL 9
Asian	11	7	5 male 7 female	4 male	2 male	0	0
Black	20	15	12 male 11 female	6 male 4 female	1 male	1 male	0
Hispanic	48	21	37 male 9 female	4 male 4 female	3 male 6 female	0	4 male 2 female
Multiracial	17	13	9 male 4 female	2 male 9 female	6 male	0	0
White	135	52	78 male 31 female	25 male 9 female	31 male 8 female	1 male 1 female	3 female
AIAN	0	2	1 female	1 female	0	0	0
NHOPI	1	0	1 male	0	0	0	0

In areas where a significant disparate impact in enforcement has been identified, a mitigation action plan shall consider:

- Clear policy enforcement, ensuring that all faculty are enforcing the policy with all students, in accordance with law and policies.
- Clear policy exceptions: ensure device policies explicitly account for documented accommodations.
- Restorative practices: continue implementing restorative practices between students and faculty following an infraction to address underlying reasons for device use.
- Acknowledging positive behavior: establish clear, proactive classroom expectations, paired with consistent reinforcement.
- Continuation of disaggregated data reviews, quarterly.