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

Cheektowaga Central School District 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, the Cheektowaga Central School District 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.

II. Policy Enforcement Data by School Building

During the 2025–2026 school year, a total of 286 unique students across the district received formal disciplinary action for noncompliance with the policy, resulting in a total of 691 enforcement incidents.

The distribution of these infractions across our three school buildings is detailed below:

Cheektowaga Central High School

The vast majority of enforcement actions occurred at the high school level, involving 284 unique students and 689 total incidents:

● 1 Infraction: 125 students (125 total incidents)

● 2 Infractions: 73 students (146 total incidents)

● 3 Infractions: 45 students (135 total incidents)

● 4 or More Infractions: 41 students (176 total incidents recorded)

Cheektowaga Central Middle School

Enforcement at the middle school level was minimal, reflecting high initial compliance with the storage protocols:

● 1 Infraction: 2 students (2 total incidents)

● 2 Infractions: 0 students (0 total incidents)

● 3 Infractions: 0 students (0 total incidents)

● 4 or More Infractions: 0 students (0 total incidents recorded)

Union East Elementary School

Device violations at the elementary level were isolated incidents handled with immediate educational corrections:

● 1 Infraction: 0 students (0 total incidents)

● 2 Infractions: 0 students (0 total incidents)

● 3 Infractions: 0 students (0 total incidents)

● 4 or More Infractions: 0 students (0 total incidents recorded)

III. Non-Identifiable Disciplinary Demographic Data

To safeguard student privacy in accordance with state and federal laws, demographic data has been aggregated district-wide and rendered completely non-identifiable.

The table below measures the 286 unique students disciplined against general district-wide enrollment benchmarks.

Demographic Category	Sub-Group	District Enrollment % (Approx.)	Unique Students Disciplined	% of Total Disciplined
Race / Ethnicity	White	33.79%	81	9.05%
	Non-White (Black, Hispanic, Multiracial)	66.17%	205	11.68%
Special Programs	Students with Disabilities (IEP/504)	17.78%	46	9.77%
	General Education	82.21%	240	11.02%

IV. Demographic Disparity Analysis

An analysis of the data was conducted using standard statistical screening (including proportional risk ratios) to determine if any demographic sub-groups experienced a statistically significant disparate impact in policy enforcement.

Key Findings

● Race & Ethnicity: Non-white students represent approximately 66.17% of district enrollment and accounted for 11.68% of all policy enforcements during the reporting period. Statistical analysis indicates no statistically significant disparate impact based on race and ethnicity. The District will continue to monitor enforcement data to ensure equitable and consistent application of district policies.

● Students with Disabilities: Students with documented disabilities (IEPs or 504 plans) account for approximately 17.78% of total district enrollment and represent 9.77% of the unique students disciplined under this policy. The District will continue

to analyze discipline data to determine whether the observed difference represents a statistically significant disparity and, if warranted, implement targeted interventions to promote equitable enforcement.

V. Mitigation Action Plan

Cheektowaga Central School District is implementing the following **Mitigation Action Plan** for the 2026–2027 school year to promote consistent, equitable, and fair enforcement practices across the District.

1. Restorative and Educational Interventions

● Action: The district will review its building-level enforcement protocols to continue restorative practices before formal disciplinary actions are logged.

● Focus: Instead of immediate data logging or escalation, initial infractions will prioritize reteaching the "why" behind digital wellness, utilizing school counselors and social workers to address underlying technology dependencies.

2. Quarterly Administrative Data Audits

● Action: The Superintendent and building principals will review anonymized enforcement data on a quarterly basis during the 2026–2027 school year, rather than waiting for the annual report cycle.

● Focus: This allows the district to identify and correct any emerging enforcement disparities in real-time.