



No Cell from Bell to Bell

**@ Pioneer Middle School
2025-2026**

NEW STATEWIDE REQUIREMENT

NYS Education Law §2803 requires:

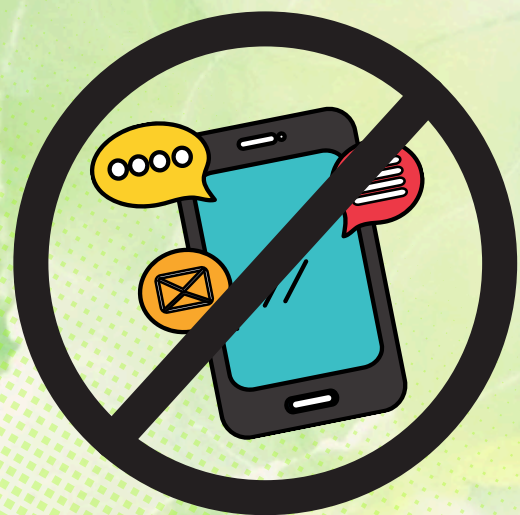
All school districts and BOCES to adopt a policy restricting use of internet-enabled devices during the entire school day. This applies to all areas on school grounds.



CHANGES FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

Beginning with the 2025–2026 school year, Pioneer Middle School will **prohibit student access to cell phones, smartphones, wireless headphones/earbuds, and smartwatches (including Apple Watches)** throughout the entire school day.

All items must be turned off or silenced and out of sight in a fully-zipped backpack or closed locker by 7:28 AM and will not be accessible for student use until 2:25 PM.



WHEN ARE DEVICES ALLOWED?

With school approval, devices may be used:

- For medical needs
- In an emergency
- For translation services

A student must be allowed to use a device if it's part of their:

- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- 504 Plan (for students with disabilities)

Devices may be used on the bus to and from school, but are not allowed on buses for school events during the school day, such as field trips.

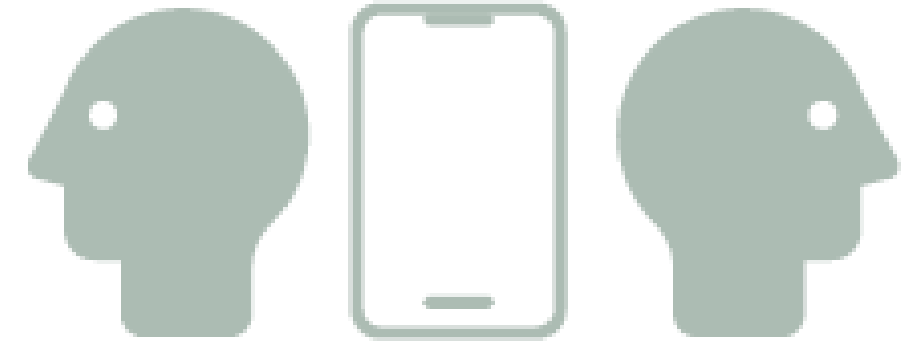
WHEN IS DEVICE USE RESTRICTED?

“School day” includes:

- 7:28 AM - 2:25 PM
- Instructional time
- Homeroom
- Lunch and recess
- Study halls and passing time
- Field trips

“School grounds” means:

- All buildings
- Classrooms, hallways, and cafeterias
- Athletic fields, playgrounds, and more



Phones prevent face to face communication

Research suggests that face to face communications are linked to better mental health.

[Psychology today](#)

WHAT COUNTS AS A VIOLATION?

A student is in violation if they:

- Have a visible cell phone during the school day
- Use a cell phone, smartwatch, or earbuds
- Refuse to store their device in a backpack, locker, or school-issued container
- Refuse to turn over a device to school staff

TEENS SPEND NEARLY
FIVE HOURS A DAY
ON SOCIAL MEDIA APPS

American Psychological Association



CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS

Offense	Consequence	Phone Pickup
1st	Warning; Phone held in main office	Student at end of day
2nd	Lunch Detention	Parent/Guardian
3rd	1 Day ISS	Parent/Guardian
4th	2 Days ISS & Admin Conference	Parent/Guardian
5th+	Admin Conference Required	Parent/Guardian

STUDENT ACCESS TO COMMUNICATION

Need to Reach Your Child During the School Day?

- For a parent or guardian to contact their child or adjust pick-up times during the school day, please call the greeter's desk, ext. 9416, and we will relay the message to your child.
- If you need to personally speak with your child before the end of the school day, please call the main office, ext. 9371 and inform the staff member that it's important to speak with your child directly. If the matter can wait, staff will arrange a time that does not disrupt learning to call your child down to return the call.
- If a child needs to contact their parent or guardian during the school day, a phone will be available in the main office for student use.

BENEFITS OF *NO CELL FROM BELL TO BELL*:

- Increased instructional time: student requests to leave the classroom mid-instruction decrease
- Increased engagement: students engage more with their peers and teachers both in and outside of the classroom
- Fewer distractions: teachers report improved focus, attention, and comprehension leading to better skills and grades
- Less cyberbullying
- Fewer fights and social media-related drama: administrators report spending less time on discipline referrals
- Less reported stress among students: school counselors are seeing a decrease in the rate of mental health related student visits
- Improved attendance: students aren't texting their parents to call them out of school
- More vibrant lunchrooms: lunchrooms at phone-free school are markedly louder because students are having face-to-face conversations with their peers

Goal: Ensure a focused and respectful learning environment.

35%

of teens admit to using
their cellphone to

CHEAT

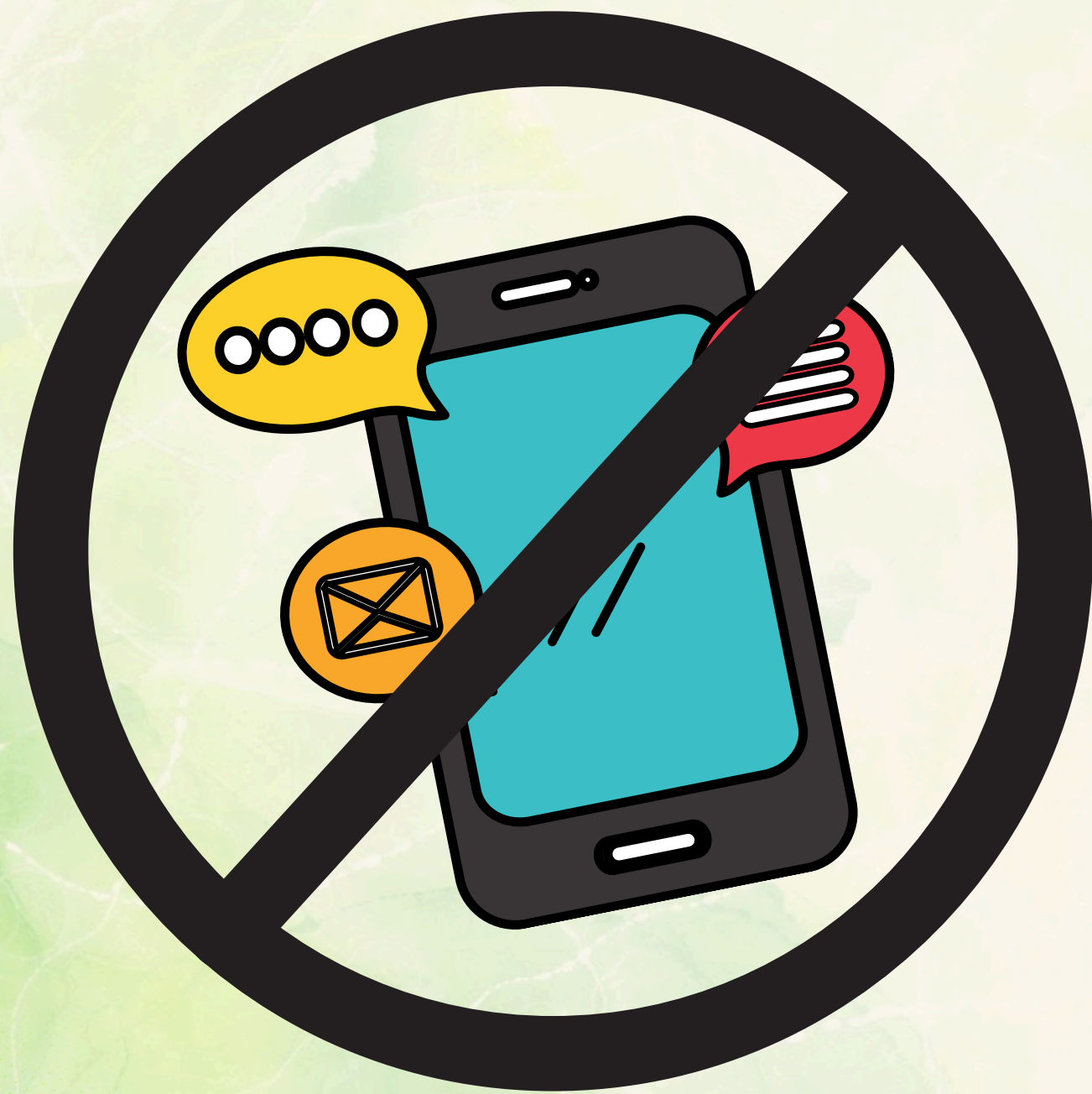
Common Sense Media



“BRAIN DRAIN”

The mere presence of one's own
smartphone reduces available
cognitive capacity

Brain Drain



Thank you