Students

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

The District consulted with local stakeholders including employee organizations representing each bargaining unit, parents, and students to develop this policy to prohibit the use of internet-enabled devices and cell phones by students during the school day on school grounds. This policy aims to ensure that students remain focused on their academic responsibilities throughout the school day, which includes all instructional and non-instructional periods such as homeroom, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

a. “Cell phone” shall mean any personal mobile communication device capable of sending and/or receiving text messages and/or sending and/or receiving calls.

b. "Internet-enabled devices" means and includes any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, or other device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including social media applications.

"Internet-enabled devices" does not include:

1. Internet-enabled devices supplied by the District, charter school, or Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) that are used for an educational purpose.

b) "School day" means the entirety of every instructional day as required by subdivision 7 of the Education Law Section 3604 during all instructional time and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.

c) "School grounds" means in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a district elementary, intermediate, junior high, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a BOCES facility.

Students are prohibited from using internet-enabled devices and cell phones during the school day anywhere on school grounds, unless authorized by school personnel.

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Authorization for Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices and Cell Phones

The building principals may authorize student use of internet-enabled devices and cell phones during the school day on school grounds for the following reasons:

a. if authorized by a teacher or the school district or board of cooperative educational services for a specific educational purpose;
b. where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare;
c. in the event of an emergency;
d. for translation services;
e. on a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or a school counselor, for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member;
f. where required by law.

The District will allow student use of internet-enabled devices and cell phones where such is included in the student's:

a) individualized education program; or
b) plan developed pursuant to section five hundred four of the federal rehabilitation act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.

On-Site Storage of Internet-Enabled Devices and Cell Phones

Middle School and High School students must store their internet-enabled devices and cell phones in their lockers. Internet-enabled devices and cell phones will be turned off and will not be accessed during the school day. Students in the Elementary School will store their internet-enabled devices and cell phones in their backpacks in their classrooms. Internet-enabled devices and cell phones will be turned off, and will not be accessed during the school day

(Continued)

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Methods for Parents to Contact Students During the School Day

To accommodate necessary communication, parents or persons in parental relation may use the following methods to contact their student during school hours while adhering to this policy:

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 call the student to the office to speak with their parent or person in parental relation. The following is the contact information for the Main Office:

PreK School – (585) 384-5234
Elementary School – (585) 728-3547
Middle School – (585) 728-2551, press 4
High School – (585) 728-2366, press 7

b) Written Notes: Parents or persons in parental relation can drop off written notes at the school's main office, which can then be delivered to the student by school staff.

Parents and persons in parental relation will be notified in writing of the methods that are available for contacting their student during school hours upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year.

Student Discipline for Accessing Internet-Enabled Devices and Cell Phones During the School Day

The District is prohibited from suspending a student solely for accessing internet-enabled devices and cell phones in violation of this policy.

Posting and Translation of Policy

The District will post this policy in a clearly visible and accessible location on its website. Translations of the policy into the 12 most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in the state will be provided upon request by a student or other persons in parental relation to a student.

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Reporting and Mitigation Action Plan

Beginning September 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, the District will publish an annual report on its website detailing enforcement of this policy within the District in the prior school year. This report will include non-identifiable demographic data of students who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance and analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement of this policy. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, the report will include a mitigation action plan.

Education Law Section 2803

Adoption Date: 8/1/2025
Revision Date: