



BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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Ebony E. Prophet-Bullock, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

August 5, 2026

Dear BPS Parents and Caregivers,

Re: New York State Distraction-Free Schools

I hope you and your child(ren) are enjoying a wonderful summer. I am writing to remind you of New York State's distraction-free, no personal smartphones/electronics policy that is still in effect. Please prepare your child(ren) for this state law.

Be aware that students are required to store their internet-capable personal devices from the first bell to final dismissal in a secure designated storage area at their school. This includes smartphones, smartwatches, cell phones with any internet capability, iPads, or similar devices.

However, students will be authorized to access "school-issued" internet-enabled devices for their classroom instruction. This includes laptops or tablets provided by the school and used as part of instruction. Each school will also have a process for students to contact a parent or caregiver during the school day, if needed.

There are a few exemptions to New York State's device restrictions, including:

- (A) Students who require access to an internet-enabled device to manage a medical condition,
- (B) Use of electronics documented on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan for academic purposes, and
- (C) For other legitimate purposes, such as translation services or documented emergencies.

To learn more about New York State's distraction-free policy that requires bell-to-bell restrictions on all internet-capable devices, click [HERE](#), or scan the QR code:



Thank you for your partnership and support as we continue to work together to create a learning environment that is positive and encouraging for all students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ebony Prophet-Bullock
Interim Superintendent