

Burlington County Institute of Technology

Discover Your Potential

Dr. Ashanti Holley
Superintendent of Schools



Mr. Eder Joseph
Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Bobbie Downs
Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Jaime Mungo
Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Andrew Willmott, CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

August 6, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,,

We are writing to share an important change regarding student use of cell phones and other personal internet-enabled devices for the 2026–2027 school year.

Last year, students could use personal devices during lunch and between classes. Beginning this year, devices must remain off and away from the homeroom bell through final dismissal bell, including lunch and passing time.

This change is required by New Jersey law (P.L. 2025, c.195). **Every public school in New Jersey must follow this mandate**, so these expectations will be the same in our school as they are in districts across the State.

The law was enacted as a public health measure in response to growing concerns about the effects of heavy device and social media use on adolescents, including links to reduced focus and increased rates of anxiety and depression. Limiting device access during the school day is intended to support learning, improve focus, and create more opportunities for meaningful in-person interaction with peers and staff.

Personal internet-enabled devices include cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, smart glasses, and any other personal device capable of accessing the internet, sending messages, or recording information.

The law does allow for limited exceptions, including for students whose IEP or 504 plan requires access to a personal device and for certain documented medical needs. We will share detailed information about these exceptions, and the process for requesting one, in a future communication before the school year begins.

Students will be taught the new expectations during the first days of school. Violations will be addressed through progressive discipline under the Student Code of Conduct.

If you need to reach your child during the school day, please contact the main office. Staff will make sure important and emergency messages are delivered promptly.

BCIT Medford

📍 10 Hawkin Road
Medford, NJ 08055
☎ (609) 654-0200

BCIT Westampton

📍 695 Woodlane Road
Westampton, NJ 08060
☎ (609) 267-4226

www.burlicoschools.org

This is the first of several communications you will receive. Before school begins, we will share the updated Board policy, a set of frequently asked questions, and detailed information about how violations will be handled. Please watch for those messages so you have the full picture ahead of the first day.

In the meantime, we ask that you begin preparing your child for this change now. Talk with them about what a full day without a phone will look like, plan ahead for after-school pickup, activities, and transportation so those arrangements do not depend on a mid-day text, and help them practice going stretches of time without checking their device. Students who arrive in September already expecting this change will have a much easier transition.

If you have questions about this change, please contact [email] or call [phone].

Thank you for your partnership as we implement this State-required change and work together to support a focused, safe, and engaging learning environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eder', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Eder Joseph

Assistant Superintendent