

Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices, Grades K-5

East Windsor Regional School District. Policy and Regulation 5516, Section A. First reading August 10, 2026.

Regulation 5516 sets age-appropriate rules for student use of internet-enabled devices on school grounds during the school day. The provisions below apply to students in Kindergarten through grade 5.

What Counts as a Device

An internet-enabled device is any device a student can connect to the internet. This includes cell phones, smart watches, tablets, gaming devices, and earbuds paired to a phone. Students in Kindergarten through grade 5 are also prohibited from using non-internet-enabled devices.

When Devices May Not Be Used

- Students may not use an internet-enabled device on school grounds during the school day.
- Students may not use a device on school grounds before the start of the regular school day.
- Students may not use a device on school grounds after the regular school day.
- Students may not use non-internet-enabled devices at any point during the school day.

When Devices May Be Used

- On the school bus on the way to school at the start of the day, and on the way home at the end of the day.
- At school-sponsored events off school grounds during the school day, such as a field trip, while under the direct supervision of a staff member, only with the approval of the Principal or designee and at the teacher's or venue's discretion.
- At school-sponsored events outside of the school day, such as an afterschool club, while under the direct supervision of a staff member, only with the approval of the Principal or designee.

Storage During the School Day

Each student who brings an internet-enabled device to school turns the device off and stores it in a backpack, locker, or other bag for the entire school day. The student is responsible for turning the device off and password protecting it so no one else can use it.

Discipline

Staff apply clear, age-appropriate consequences and use redirection strategies with students who use devices in violation of Policy and Regulation 5516. Refusal to turn over a device for confiscation will result in additional consequences.

In every case, a staff member takes the device and turns it in to the Principal or designee's office for the remainder of the school day. The student turns the device off and password protects it before handing it over. Offense counts run by school year.

Discipline Matrix: First Through Fifth Offense

The matrix below applies to students in Kindergarten through grade 5. In every offense, a staff member takes the device and turns it in to the Principal or designee's office for the remainder of the school day. The student turns the device off and password protects it before handing it over. Offense counts run by school year.

Offense	Who Picks Up the Device	If Pickup Is Not Possible That Day	Required Signature	Discipline Imposed
First	The student picks up the device in the Principal or designee's office at the end of the school day.	Not applicable. The device is returned to the student the same day.	The student signs an acknowledgment of a first offense in a school year.	Warning and parent notification.
Second	A parent picks up the device at the Principal or designee's office at the end of the school day.	The parent may pick up the device before the end of the next or any subsequent school day.	The parent signs for receipt of the device, with notice of a second offense in a school year.	Parent conference with administration.
Third	A parent picks up the device at the Principal or designee's office at the end of the school day.	The parent may pick up the device before the end of the next or any subsequent school day.	The parent signs for receipt of the device, with notice of a third offense in a school year.	Detention.
Fourth	A parent picks up the device at the Principal or designee's office at the end of the school day.	The parent may pick up the device before the end of the next or any subsequent school day.	The parent signs for receipt of the device, with notice of a fourth offense in a school year.	Detention or in-school suspension.
Fifth	A parent picks up the device at the Principal or designee's office at the end of the school day.	The parent may pick up the device before the end of the next or any subsequent school day.	The parent signs for receipt of the device, with notice of a fifth offense in a school year.	In-school suspension, behavior contract, and a plan that bars the device from school for a set period. Proposed school-level practice. Not part of R 5516.

Note on the fifth offense. Regulation 5516 defines discipline through the fourth offense only. The fifth-offense row is a proposed school-level step drawn from the Code of Conduct and District Policy 5600. It is shaded in the table and requires administrative approval before publication.

Refusal to surrender a device. A student who refuses to turn over a device receives additional consequences under the Code of Conduct, independent of the offense count above.

Students with disabilities. Consequences that remove a student from instruction are applied consistent with the student's IEP or 504 plan. The Child Study Team reviews any removal that approaches ten cumulative days.

Medical and assistive use. A device required by a student's IEP, 504 plan, or individualized healthcare plan is exempt from this regulation and is used as that plan directs.

What Families Can Expect

- The Principal or designee's office holds a confiscated device in a secure location until pickup.
- The school notifies a parent or guardian on every offense, starting with the first.
- Beginning with the second offense, a parent or guardian must pick up the device in person and sign for it.
- Families who need to reach a student during the school day call the Main Office at the number listed in this handbook.
- The school is not responsible for a device that is lost, stolen, or damaged.

Alignment with the Code of Conduct

Device violations sit at Level 1 in the tiered approach to behavior management described in the Student Code of Conduct. Administration raises the level when a device violation includes a second infraction, such as recording another student without consent, sharing images, or harassment, intimidation, and bullying under District Policy 5512.