Book	Elmira City School District Policy Manual
Section	7000 Students
Title	Use of Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day
Code	7317
Status	Active
Adopted	July 9, 2025

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

The district consulted with local stakeholders including employee organizations, parents, and students to develop this policy to prohibit the use of Internet-enabled devices by students during the school day on school grounds. This policy aims to ensure 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. "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. Non-Internet-enabled devices such as cellular phones or other communication devices not capable of connecting to the Internet or enabling the user to access content on the Internet; or

   2. 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, Academy, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a BOCES facility.

Students are generally prohibited from using Internet-enabled devices during the school day anywhere on school grounds.

However, students may be authorized to use an Internet-enabled device during the school day on school grounds:

a. Where necessary for the management of a student's health care; (must be approved by the District Physician prior to use)

b. In the event of an emergency, (as determined by District or Building Administrator).

c. Where required by law.

Students must be permitted to use an Internet-enabled device where the use is included in the student's:

a. Individualized Education Program (IEP); or

b. Section 504 Plan.

Under these exceptions, devices may only be used for the purposes outlined in the exception, and the device must be silenced and put away when not in use, to the extent compatible with the reason for the exception. Prior approval is required by the supervisor of Special Education.

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

Students must store their Internet-enabled devices in designated on-site storage areas during the school day or in a district supplied lockable pouch- such as a Yondr Pouch.

At the Pre-K-2 elementary school level, students are discouraged from bringing internet-enabled devices to school. Any device brought to school must be silenced and kept in the classroom teacher’s storage container, located inside of the classroom. Teachers will collect all internet enabled devices prior to the start of the school day, the device will be returned to students at the conclusion of the school day.

At the 3-6 elementary school level, students are discouraged from bringing internet-enabled devices to school. Any device that is brought to school will be secured in a school supplied and approved pouch, such as a Yondr Pouch, at the start of the school day upon entry to the building. The pouches will be unlocked at the conclusion of the school day prior to students exiting the building.

For grades 7-12, students are required to secure any device brought to school in a school supplied and approved pouch, such as a Yondr Pouch, at the start of the school day prior or upon entering the school building. Pouches will be unlocked at the conclusion of the school day.

The district will exercise reasonable care to maintain the security of devices that are temporarily held by the district, but the Elmira City School District does not guarantee these will be secure.

The district will communicate the procedures for storing and retrieving devices, ensuring that students understand their responsibilities in using the on-site storage facilities provided.

If students lose the assigned individual pouch, and do not pay for a replacement, they will turn their electronic internet device into the main office daily, prior to the start of school and pick it up from the main office at the conclusion of the school day.

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:

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.

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 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 During the School Day

Students are expected to adhere to reasonable requests of teachers, administrators, and other school staff, as outlined in the Code of Conduct. Students may receive disciplinary consequences for insubordination and/or insubordinate behaviors in violation of this policy and the Code of Conduct.

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.

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 required 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

Adopted: 7/9/25