



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Section 7000 - Students
Title	Use of Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day
Code	7316
Status	Active
Adopted	July 23, 2025

### **USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES 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 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. "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;
- b. "Internet-enabled devices" does not include: Internet-enabled devices supplied by the District, charter school, or Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) that are used for an educational purpose.
- c. "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.
- d. "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 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. If authorized by a teacher, principal, or the District for a specific educational purpose;
- b. Where necessary for the management of a student's health care;
- 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 school counselor for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and well-being of a family member; or

f. 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.

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

Student lockers at the junior high and high school are the designated storage areas for all Internet-enabled devices. At the elementary level, designated bins will be provided in classrooms. The District will communicate the procedures for storing and retrieving devices on a yearly basis, ensuring that students, staff, and guardians understand their responsibilities in using the on-site storage facilities provided.

#### **Methods for Parents to Contact Students During the School Day**

To accommodate necessary communication, 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.

Parents and persons in parental relation will be notified yearly 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 During the School Day**

The District is prohibited from suspending a student solely for accessing internet-enabled devices 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.

#### **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.