

Students

SUBJECT: 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" shall mean and include 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; provided, however, that "internet-enabled devices" shall 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" shall mean 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" shall mean 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, middle school, junior high, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a BOCES facility.

New York State Education Law prohibits students from using internet-enabled devices (phones, watches, tablets, air pods, smart glasses, etc.) on school grounds during the entire school day from the first bell to the last bell of the day. This includes class time, lunch, and study halls. School issued devices, such as Chromebooks, are exempt from this prohibition.

The District encourages all students to leave all internet-enabled devices at home. The District will not be responsible for lost or damaged devices.

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(Cont'd.)**

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 when necessary for the management of their own healthcare needs with knowledge of a school administrator and required medical documentation.

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. Students who bring an internet-enabled device to school must immediately place their device(s) in their locker or assigned cubby prior to the start of the first class. Internet-enabled devices must remain in lockers or assigned cubbies until the bell at the end of the school day.

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.

Methods for Parents to Contact Students During the School Day

In case of an emergency or in the event that a student needs to be contacted, parents/guardians may contact the main office of their child's school at:

- Gouverneur Elementary School – (315) 287-2260
- Gouverneur Middle School – (315) 287-1903
- Gouverneur High School – (315) 287-1900

In the event a student must contact their parent/guardian during the school day, they may get a pass to go to the office to use the phone.

Parents and persons in parental relation will be notified in writing of the methods that are available for contacting their student during school hours upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year.

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**SUBJECT: USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY
(Cont'd.)**

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.

Education Law Section 2803

Adoption Date: 7/21/2025