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| Book | Policy Manual |
| Section | 5000 - Students |
| Title | Students and Personal Electronic Devices |
| Code | 5695 |
| Status | Active |
| Adopted | July 1, 2025 |
| Last Revised | October 7, 2024 |
| Prior Revised Dates | June 5, 2017; December 03, 2018; September 14, 2023 |

5695

STUDENTS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

New York State Education Law 2803 prohibits the use of 'internet-enabled devices'- defined as 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.

The Board of Education recognizes that there are electronic devices that have useful educational applications. The district provides students with necessary electronic devices in the classroom such as iPads, Chromebooks, laptops and calculators for educational use.

There are phones available in the Main Office for students to use to contact home. If a parent/guardian needs to reach their student, they may call the Main Office or attendance and their student will be contacted.

If personal electronic devices are brought to school, they must be stored in locations designated by building administrators. Personal electronic devices are not allowed to be used at any time on school grounds during the school day, through 13th period..

The district is not responsible for stolen, lost, or damaged personal electronic devices.

Therefore, to prevent disruption;

Grades K-12

1. Students in grades K-12 are prohibited from unsanctioned use of smartphones and other internet-enabled personal devices (defined as 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) on school grounds for the entire school day (from "bell to bell").
2. The use of cell phones or other devices with photo/video capabilities is expressly prohibited in bathrooms and locker rooms.
3. The use of cell phones or other devices to videotape fights is not only a violation of the electronic device policy but is a violation of the district code of conduct due to the high potential to disrupt the educational process. Posting or sending videos of fights by any means is considered cyberbullying. Videotaping fights will incur disciplinary consequences in addition to the actions listed below according to the district code of conduct and based on the circumstances of the incident.
4. In emergency situations, exceptions to the prohibition of the use of personal electronic devices may be granted by administrators.

Consequences

Personal electronic devices may be confiscated by school personnel if observed or determined to be in use when/where prohibited. The consequences for violating the policy are:

First offense: Student will turn in their device which will be held in the main office until picked up by a parent. Parents will be notified by administration and required to pick up the phone.

Second offense(s): The device will be confiscated by administration and held in the Main Office until parent pick-up. Student will be given a discipline referral for the violation and will be required to turn in their cellphone to the main office daily going forward.

Third and additional offense(s): Failure to follow this policy and abide by previous consequences will result in a discipline referral for insubordination and consequences according to the district Code of Conduct.

The use of personal electronic devices constitutes a violation of the school district code of conduct and in some instances, the law. The administration reserves the right to amend, supersede or supplant the penalties for any offense based on a review of the circumstances. The school district will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Legal

Price v. New York City Board of Education, 16 Misc.3d 543 (2007).

Cross References

5300 - K-12 Code of Conduct