

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

The District consulted with a committee of teachers, students, administrators, and parents to develop electronic device rules for all schools in the district. These rules, which are also contained in the district code of conduct, form the basis for 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;

"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, 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;

(Continued)

Students

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- 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

Middle school and high school students must store their Internet-enabled devices in their lockers during the school day from the beginning of their first class to the end of their last class of the day..

Methods for Parents to Contact Students During the School Day

Parents or guardians of students who need to contact a student during the school day may call or email the main office of the school their child attends.

Duzine	845-256-4350	845-256-4351	dzattendance@newpaltz.k12.ny.us
Lenape	845-256-4300	845-256-4301	lnattendance@newpaltz.k12.ny.us
Middle School	845-256-4200	845-256-4201	msattendance@newpaltz.k12.ny.us
High School	845-256-4100	845-256-4102	hsattendance@newpaltz.k12.ny.us

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- a) Parents and persons in parental relation may use the above email addresses to send messages to the school offices. These emails will be monitored by school staff who can then pass the messages on to the students.
- b) In case of an emergency, the school's main office can use the classroom intercom system to notify students directly or ask them to come to the office.
- c) 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 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

Violations of the district cell phone policy will result in disciplinary measures that are consistent with the district code of conduct..

Failure of a student to surrender their device when asked to do so by a district official constitutes insubordination and will lead to disciplinary measures.

Students will not be suspended from school if the sole grounds for the suspension is that the student accessed an internet-enabled device in violation of 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 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.

Education Law Section 2803