

BAN ON INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICE USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

1. Purpose

This policy, adopted by the Chittenango Central School District Board of Education, establishes a District-wide ban on student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day, in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

2. Definitions

Internet-Enabled Devices shall mean any device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including but not limited to social media applications. Such devices shall include, but not be limited to smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, laptops, and other portable electronic communication or computing devices. Internet-enabled devices supplied by the School District that are used for an educational purpose are not included in this definition.

Other Personal Electronic Devices shall mean any electronic device owned or possessed by a student, whether or not it is capable of connecting to the internet or enabling the user to access content on the internet. Such devices may include, but are not limited to, devices capable of voice, audio, video, photo or text communication, video games and video gaming systems, speakers and headphones.

School Day shall mean the entirety of every instructional day, including during instructional and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study hall and passing time.

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 the District.

3. Prohibited Use

Students are prohibited from using internet-enabled devices on school grounds during the school day, except as expressly permitted under the exceptions outlined in this policy.

4. Exceptions

Student use of an internet-enabled device during the school day on school grounds may be authorized in the following limited circumstances:

- a. Educational Use:** If authorized by a teacher, principal or the District for a specific educational purpose.

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b. Health & Safety: Where necessary for managing a student's healthcare, or in the event of an emergency.

c. Language Needs: When needed by a student for translation services.

d. Student Caregivers: On a case-by-case basis for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member. Such use will be permitted only upon review and determination by a school official.

e. Legal Requirements: When the use of such devices is required by law.

f. 504/IEP Plans: Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or otherwise limit a student's use of an internet-enable device where such use is included in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

5. Communication and Contact

The District shall provide at least one method for parents or persons in parental relation to a student to contact the student during the school day. The contact methods provided will include, but not be limited to the following: a dedicated phone line in the main office, and/or a parent-student messaging system. Written notification detailing how parents or persons in parental relation to a student may contact the student during the school day shall be provide to parents or persons in parental relation to a student at the beginning of each school year and upon student enrollment.

6. Storage of Devices

The District shall provide at least one method for students to store internet-enabled devices on-site during the school day. Secure storage options will include, but are not limited to the following: Elementary, Middle and High School - a school-issued secure pouch or personal storage/locker.

7. Discipline and Enforcement

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary penalties pursuant to the District's Code of Conduct and subject to applicable law and regulations. Progressive discipline or restorative practices may be used in cases of repeated violations, consistent with the District's Code of Conduct.

8. Accessibility and Language Access

This policy shall be clearly posted and accessible on the District's website. Upon request by student, parent, or person in parental relation to a student, a translation of this policy into any of the twelve most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in New York State shall be provided.

9. Regulations

The Board authorizes and directs the Superintendent of Schools to establish regulations implementing this policy.

Education Law Section 2803

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