

7316-Use of Internet and Cellular 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 and cellular-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:

"Internet and cellular-enabled devices" means and includes phones, tablets, smartwatch, or other device capable of connecting to the Internet or cellular and enabling the user to access content on the Internet, including social media applications, or to make or receive phone calls or text messages;

"Internet-enabled devices" does not include:

1. Internet-enabled devices supplied by the District, charter school, or Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) that are used for an educational purpose.
2. "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.
3. "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.

Students may be authorized to use an Internet-enabled device during the school day on school grounds:

1. Where necessary for the management of a student's health care;
2. In the event of an emergency accompanied by school staff;
3. For translation services when a school device is not available;
4. When approved by the school administrator;
5. Where required by law.

Students must be permitted to use an Internet-enabled device where the use is included in the student's:

1. Individualized Education Program (IEP); or
2. Section 504 Plan.

On-Site Storage of Internet-Enabled Devices:

- **Rockwell Elementary and Wheeler Elementary Schools:** smartphones, smartwatches or cellular phones, internet enabled devices are not permitted on school grounds by students during the school day. If an internet enabled device is brought on school grounds during the school day it will be securely stored in the school's main office.
- **Jr/Sr High School Students:** The student must secure their internet-enabled device(s) in their assigned locker during the school day or store it securely in the school's main office.

All confiscated or stored devices must be picked up by parent/guardian. Devices not picked up from the main office by 3:30 can be picked up after school on the next school day.

The designated on-site storage areas must be easily accessible to students and provide adequate security to ensure the safekeeping of the student's devices. 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

To accommodate necessary communication, parents or persons in parental relation may use the following methods to contact their student during school hours while adhering to this policy:

1. School Office Phone/Email:

- a. Rockwell Elementary School Main Office: 315-552-5070/rwooffice@onondagacsd.org
- b. Wheeler Elementary School Main Office: 315-552-5050/wheeleroffice@onondagacsd.org
- c. Jr & Sr. High School Main Office: 315-552-5020/highschooloffice@onondagacsd.org

2. **Classroom Intercom System:** 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.
3. **School Messaging Applications (i.e. ParentSquare):** Parents, students and staff may use a secure messaging application, student school issued email, ParentSquare and StudentSquare communication tools.
4. **Written Notes:** 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 main office 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

The District is prohibited from suspending a student solely for accessing internet-enabled devices in violation of this policy. Unsecured devices will be confiscated by school staff and securely stored in the main office until the end of the school day.

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