

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

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.

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 student's home district or the 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 lines of the BOCES.

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 BOCES for a specific educational purpose;
- b) Where necessary for the management of a student's health care;
- 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.

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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. On-site storage areas may include, but are not limited to, designated storage areas in classrooms, or secure storage areas in the school's main office. It is the student's responsibility to care for the storage area and ensure it is not damaged.

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:

- a) School Office Phone: Parents or persons in parental relation may call the BOCES's main office, and the office staff can relay messages to the student or call the student to the office to speak with their parent or person in parental relation.
- b) School Messaging Application: The BOCES may use a messaging application or platform where parents or persons in parental relation can send messages to their student. The messages can be monitored and may be delivered by school staff.
- c) Written Notes: Parents or persons in parental relation can drop off written notes at the the BOCES'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.

Liability

BOCES will not be liable for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of any personal technology brought to any of its locations. The BOCES reserves the right to monitor, inspect, and/or confiscate personal technology or internet enabled devices when the administration has reasonable suspicion to believe that a violation of school policy or criminal law has occurred.

Translation of Policy

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.