

## STUDENTS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Board of Education (the Board) recognizes that there are personal electronic devices that have educational applications, which could include calculators, voice recorders, digital cameras and music listening devices, as well as, other devices endorsed by the Board. These devices shall be allowed to be used in classrooms only when they are included as part of a lesson under the direction of a teacher.

The Board acknowledges that personal mobile devices, (such as smartphones, personal tablets, wearable devices, and other 2-way electronic communication systems identified by the Board) can be a positive means to facilitate communication. However, the display and/or use of such devices can cause disruption to the educational process. In addition, the access to social media provided by these devices during the school day is detrimental to the educational process and is proven to have an inverse relationship with mental health and wellness.

Therefore, to prevent such disruption and reduce the risk of potential harm:

1. Possession, display and/or use by students of personal mobile devices or any electronic communication devices (ECDs), including wearables, other than those devices mentioned in paragraph 1 of this policy and/or those issued by the school for approved purposes, shall be prohibited throughout the regular school day. The regular school day is defined as 8:00 am to 3:05 pm.
2. Such devices must be turned off and stored out of sight during this time period in accordance with procedures outlined in the code of conduct. These procedures may include the use of signal-blocking pouches, designated cell phone storage lockers, or other storage devices as determined by the District. The District is not responsible for stolen, lost or damaged personal electronic communications devices.
3. Student use of any of these electronic devices will result in consequences, as outlined in the code of conduct. In rare circumstances, in which the use of ECDs is required for a specific educational task, the supervising teacher may submit a request in writing to the superintendent for approval. This request must include the course name, justification, and duration of time (days/weeks) the ECD will be used. Use of those devices will be limited to that educational task.

The District retains the right to allow students with specific needs, as documented in an individualized education plan (IEP) or 504, to use a device to access apps that are required for the student's health and to access the general education curriculum.

Cross-ref: 5300, Code of Conduct

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

Created July 2024