

Internet Enable Devices Policy

Effective September 4, 2025

In accordance with Governor Hochul's directive, the following policy regarding the use of internet-enabled electronic devices during the school day is in effect:

Purpose

This policy outlines the rules regarding the use of internet-enabled and non-internet-enabled electronic devices by students during the school day on school grounds. It aligns with the Governor's directive to maintain a focused, distraction-free learning environment.

Definitions

- **Internet-Enabled Device:** Any electronic device that can access the internet through Wi-Fi, cellular data, or other wireless connections. Examples include smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, laptops with wireless capabilities, and handheld gaming systems with online features.
- **Non-Internet-Enabled Device:** Any electronic device that does **not** have the capability to connect to the internet. Examples include basic calculators, digital clocks or watches without internet features, and other educational tools used solely for academic purposes.
- **School Day:** The period from the official start of the school schedule (e.g., first bell) to the end of the instructional day (e.g., dismissal bell), including passing periods, lunch, and other school-sanctioned instructional activities.
- **School Grounds:** All buildings, outdoor areas, and properties owned, operated, or controlled by the school, including classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, cafeterias, playgrounds, athletic fields, buses, and parking lots.
- **Parent:** The student's legal parent or guardian as recognized by school records, including custodial caregivers and individuals legally responsible for the student's welfare and educational decisions.

Prohibited Use of Personal Internet-Enabled Devices

Students are **not permitted** to use **personal internet-enabled electronic devices** during the school day. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Smartphones (apple, android, etc.)
- Smartwatches with internet connectivity
- Tablets with personal data plans or Wi-Fi capabilities
- Personal laptops or Chromebooks
- Mobile gaming devices with online connectivity
- Any other device capable of accessing the internet through cellular networks or personal Wi-Fi connections

These devices must be **powered off and stored** in designated storage areas during instructional hours unless specifically authorized by school administration for medical or accessibility purposes.

Permitted Devices

Students may use the following devices, as permitted by school staff:

- **School-provided electronic devices**, such as Chromebooks, laptops, or tablets, strictly for educational purposes under staff supervision.
- **Non-internet-enabled devices**, such as basic calculators, digital watches, or other educational tools without internet access.

Enforcement and Consequences

Students who use internet enabled electronic devices in violation of the DOE Discipline Code, the school's policy, Chancellors Regulation A-413 and/or the DOE Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy will be subject to progressive discipline in accordance with the guidance intervention and disciplinary response set forth in the discipline code. This includes, but not limited to the following actions:

- **First Offense:** Verbal warning and device confiscation until the end of the school day.
- **Repeated Offenses:** Parent/guardian notification, device held in the main office for pickup, and/or additional disciplinary measures in accordance with the school's code of conduct.

Special Circumstances

Students with documented medical needs or accessibility requirements may be granted an exemption, subject to administrative approval. Requests must be submitted in writing to the school principal.

Parent and Guardian Support

Parents and guardians are encouraged to support this policy by ensuring students leave personal internet-enabled devices at home or remain stored during school hours.

If you need to reach your child during the school day in the event of an emergency, please call the main office 718-828-6607 or the parent coordinator, Ms. Betty Williams

For questions or clarifications, please contact the school administration smcgann2@schools.nyc.gov

I HAVE READ THE NEW SCHOOL-BASED POLICY OF P.S. 138 FOR USE OF INTERNET ENABLED DEVICES. I UNDERSTAND THAT MY CHILD MUST ADHERE TO SCHOOL POLICY.

Child's Name

Child's Class

Parent Name (Print)

Parent Signature