

STUDENTS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Board of Education recognizes that students may have personal electronic devices that can perform different functions. Such devices include “internet-enabled devices” defined as: 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, but do not include any such device supplied by the district for educational purposes. Additionally, in an emergency, the use of personal electronic devices can distract students from following the directions of staff or emergency responders, contribute to the spread of misinformation, create congestion in the emergency response system, and interfere with the district’s emergency response protocols.

Generally, the district is not responsible for stolen, lost or damaged personal electronic devices brought to school.

Communication with Parents/Persons in Parental Relation

During the school day, to minimize distractions, parents (which, for purposes of this policy, includes persons in parental relation) may contact their children via the following methods:

- Calling the school’s main office at:
Deer Park High School: 631-274-4110
Robert Frost Middle School: 631-274-4210
John F. Kennedy Intermediate School: 631-274-4310
John Quincy Adams Primary School: 631-274-4410
May Moore Primary School: 631-274-4460
- E-mailing the school:
deerparkhsmo@deerparkschools.org
robertfrostmo@deerparkschools.org
jfkmo@deerparkschools.org
jqamainoffice@deerparkschools.org
maymooremo@deerparkschools.org
- Parents with students in elementary schools can send a message through the district’s communication app (e.g., ClassDojo, ParentSquare)

Students who need to contact their parents during the school day, whether for an emergency or a non-emergency matter, must first obtain permission from a staff member and use the telephone located in the main office.

The district will notify parents in writing of the approved communication protocol at the beginning of each school year and upon student enrollment.

Device Access and Storage

As required by Education Law §2803, this policy prohibits student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day (including all classes, homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time) on school grounds (any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the boundary of a school or district or BOCES facility), unless under an exception (e.g., IEP/Section 504 or as permitted below).

1. At the JQA and MM, students are discouraged from bringing devices to school. Any device that is brought to school must be silenced and kept in the child's backpack which will be placed in the classroom cubby.
2. In JFK, students are discouraged from bringing devices to school. Any device that is brought to school must be silenced and kept in the child's backpack which will be placed in the student's locker outside the classroom.
3. At the middle school and high school level, student devices must be silenced and stored in the individual student's locker.

Administrators and staff may also restrict use of electronic devices during school events and activities held outside of the school day and/or off school grounds.

Exceptions for Specific Purposes

Use of internet-enabled devices must be permitted where included in a student's Individualized Education Program, Section 504 plan, or where required by law.

Additionally, the district may only permit, as per NYS Statute, the use of internet-enabled devices in the event of an emergency, and under the following circumstances:

1. Where necessary to manage a student's healthcare (e.g., diabetes, asthma, medication, etc.);
 - a. for healthcare exceptions to be considered, documentation from a healthcare provider must be provided.
2. For translation services; and/or
3. For students who are routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member (on a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor).

Students may also be permitted to use their internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds for specific educational purposes, if the following criteria are met:

- With administrative approval, the teacher has authorized the use of specific devices for a particular activity, after which the device must be stowed per this policy.
- The student uses the device to access the Internet or authorized applications through the district's network, under the terms of policy 4526, Computer Use

in Instruction.

Under any of these exceptions, devices may only be used for the purposes outlined in the exception, and the device must be silenced and put away when not in use, to the extent compatible with the reason for the exception.

Enforcement, Consequences and Reporting

Enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of all staff. Students will be reminded of this policy regularly and consistently, especially at the start of the school year and after returning from breaks.

The district may not impose suspension from school if the sole grounds for the suspension is that the student accessed an internet-enabled device as prohibited by this policy. However, the district may utilize consequences under the district's Code of Conduct, including detention, in-school suspension, and exclusion from extracurricular activities. The district may also utilize assignments on the detrimental impact of social media on mental health, smartphones in school, or other relevant topics.

The district reserves the right to monitor, inspect, limit use of, and/or confiscate personal devices when the building administrator has reasonable suspicion that a violation of this policy has occurred. Parents will be notified when infractions to this policy occur.

In the event of confiscation, the district will exercise reasonable care to maintain the security of devices that are held by the district, by utilizing a lockable storage container in the main office. For students with exceptions under this policy, the district will examine alternative ways to achieve the purpose of the exception, including different storage or access provisions.

Administrators will also discuss the aims of this policy with students and their parents, the benefits of a distraction-free environment, the reasons the student had difficulty following this policy, and how the district can help the student contribute to a distraction-free environment.

Some uses of personal electronic devices may constitute a violation of the school district Code of Conduct or other district policies, and in some instances, the law. The district will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Beginning September 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, the district will publish an annual report on its website detailing the enforcement of this policy over the past year, including non-identifiable demographic information of students who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance with this policy, and an analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement of this policy. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, the report will include a plan to mitigate such disparate enforcement.

Electronic Devices and Testing

To ensure the integrity of testing, in accordance with state guidelines, students may not bring cell phones or other electronic devices into classrooms or other exam locations during Regents exams, finals, and NYS assessments.

Test proctors, monitors and school officials have the right to collect cell phones and other prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test and to hold them for the duration of the test taking time. Admission to the test will be prohibited to any student who has a cell phone or other electronic device in their possession and does not relinquish it.

Students with Individualized Education Plans, Section 504 Plans, or documentation from medical practitioners specifically requiring use of electronic devices for testing may do so as specified.

Emergency Situations and Safety Drills

In the event of an emergency, safety drill, or evacuation, students will **not** be permitted to retrieve their cell phones until it is determined safe to do so. Communication with families during such events will be sent through ParentSquare as soon as time and circumstances allow.

Policy Distribution and Translation

As required by law, the district will post this policy in a clearly visible and accessible location on its website. Upon request by a student or parent, the district will translate this policy into any of the twelve most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in the state, as identified by the most recent American community survey published by the U.S. Census bureau.

The district will also include this information, or a plain language summary, in student/family handbooks.

Cross-ref:

4526, Computer Use in Instruction
4526.1, Internet Safety
5300, Code of Conduct

Ref:

Education Law §2803
Price v. New York City Board of Education, 51 A.D.3d 277, lv. to appeal denied, 11 N.Y.3d 702 (2008) (District may ban possession of cell phones on school property)
NYSED, *Prohibition of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices in New York State Assessments*, www.nysed.gov/educator-integrity/prohibition-cell-phones-and-electronic-devices-new-york-state-assessments

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