

LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT Policy 7316

STUDENT USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

The Board of Education recognizes that student use of cellular phones and other internet-enabled devices in our schools may distract too many of our students from learning. In accordance with state law, and as set forth in greater detail below, the School District prohibits student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day. The Levittown School 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-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.

Definitions

1. Internet-enabled devices: 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; provided, however, that internet-enabled devices shall not include:
 - a. 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
 - b. internet-enabled devices supplied by the school district, charter school, or board of cooperative educational services that are used for an educational purpose.
2. School day: The entirety of every instructional day, 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: In or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a School District elementary, intermediate, junior high, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a board of cooperative educational services facility.

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Parent/Person in Parental Relation Contact

A parent/person in parental relation may contact their child or relay a message during the school day as follows by calling the main office of the school (or other school office as determined by the school) to leave a message and describe whether the situation requires:

1. immediate attention (e.g., family emergency and the parent/guardian is picking the student up early),
 2. a return call from the school office phone because of a change in situation (e.g., student is taking a different bus to a secondary caregiver's home at the end of the day), or
 3. a reminder to the student that needs to be relayed (e.g., music lesson after school).
- These calls should be limited.

Unless the situation is an emergency requiring immediate contact with a student, the student will not be called to the main office until passing or a break in instruction.

At the beginning of each school year, and upon enrollment of a student during the school year, the School District will provide written notification to parents/persons in parental relation of these methods of contacting students during the school day.

Storage of Devices

Students who choose or whose parents/persons in parental relation allow students to bring their internet-enabled devices to school must store them in their locker (or cubby in grades K-5). The district is not responsible for lost or stolen devices.

Exceptions

Students may use internet-enabled devices during the school day in the following circumstances:

1. If such use is explicitly included in their individualized education program or 504 plan, and/or if otherwise required by law;
2. If authorized by a principal or the school district in writing for a specific educational purpose, including specialized classes or course projects, or for preparation for post-secondary time and resource management;

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3. Where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare based on medical documentation specifying why the device must be used;
4. In the event of an emergency as determined by the Superintendent of Schools, building principal and/or their designee;
5. For translation services, upon prior written authorization by a principal or the school district; or
6. On a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor, and approved in writing by the building principal and/or their designee for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member.

Enforcement

Students who do not adhere to this policy may have their devices confiscated, may be subject to stricter rules for storage (e.g., office storage only), and/or may be subject to discipline up to and including suspension for failure to adhere to the reasonable directions of teachers, administrators, and/or other school employees; or for being disruptive. The School District may not suspend a student if the sole basis for the suspension is the student having accessed an internet-enabled device in violation of this policy.

Reporting

By September 1, 2026 and each September 1st thereafter, the Superintendent of Schools will publish an annual report on the School District website that details the enforcement of this policy within the School District including non-identifiable demographic data of students who were subject to disciplinary measures for noncompliance, and analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement of this policy. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, such report must include a mitigation plan.

Regulations

The Superintendent will develop regulations to comply with this policy.

Ref:

NYS Education Law 2803(c)

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NYS Education Department's [*Accountability under the Every Student Succeeds Act*](#) guidance document.

<https://www.ny.gov/programs/distraction-free-schools-implementation-resources>

Cross ref:

7315 Computer Use in Instruction (or Acceptable Use Policy)

3410 Code of Conduct

6410 Staff Use of Computerized Information Resources