



Regulation of the Chancellor

Number: A-413

Subject: CELL PHONE AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

Category: STUDENTS

Issued: July 24, 2025

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This regulation supersedes Chancellor's Regulation A-413 dated February 26, 2015.

Changes:

Section I. Definitions

- Add Definition section.
- Define the terms "internet-enabled electronic device," "non-internet enabled electronic device," "school day," "school grounds," and "parent" in accordance with Section 2803 and Chancellor's Regulation A-101.
- Update examples of electronic devices.

Section II. DOE Policy

- Update the DOE policy regarding electronic devices to prohibit use of personal internet-enabled electronic devices during the school day.
- Add provisions permitting use of school-provided electronic devices and non-internet enabled electronic devices.

Section III. Exceptions for Personal Internet-Enabled Electronic Devices

- Add Exceptions section.
- Provide specific exceptions to the prohibition of personal internet-enabled electronic devices consistent with Section 2803, as follows:
 - Add the following required exceptions:
 1. If authorized by the school for a specific educational purpose;
 2. Where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare, as determined by the student's medical provider and subject to review by the Office of School Health;
 3. On a case-by-case basis, after 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 wellbeing of a family member; and

4. Where required by law.
 - Add the following exceptions that a school may include in their plan:
 1. In the event of an individual student emergency, where the parent has notified the principal/designee of the specific nature of the emergency; and
 2. For translation and interpretation services if other means of translation or interpretation are not available.
- Provide that students must be permitted to use personal internet-enabled devices where such use is contained in an IEP or 504 plan, for (i) medical purposes or (ii) educational purposes, but the school has not yet secured a DOE-issued device for such purpose.

Section IV. Storage of Electronic Devices

- Add Storage of Electronic Devices section.
- Require schools to provide at least one method for storage of personal electronic devices
- Provide examples of different storage methods.

Section V. Establishment of Written School-Based Policies

- Require schools to provide at least one method for parents to contact their student during the school day in the event of an emergency or exigent circumstance, which must include, at minimum, a direct phone number(s) provided by the school.
- Require schools to provide written notification to parents of such methods.
- Remove outdated requirement for interim policies for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Require that principals have a plan in place for the first day of school of the 2025-26 school year.

Section VI. Communication of School-Based Policies

- Remove outdated timelines.
- Require that at the start of each school year or upon enrollment of a new student, schools must provide written notification of this Regulation and the school's policy to parents and must ensure that the school policy has been shared with staff and parents.
- Remove requirement that schools conduct an annual orientation on this Regulation and the school's policy.
- Require that changes to school policy be communicated to students, parents and staff.

Section VII. Student Discipline

- Clarify that students may be subject to progressive discipline.
- Provide a restriction on suspension solely on the grounds that a student accessed a personal internet-enabled electronic device in violation of school policy.

Section VIII. Confiscation of Electronic Devices

- Clarify heading and terms used in accordance with Definition section.

Number: A-413

Subject: CELL PHONE AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

Category: STUDENTS

Issued: July 24, 2025

ABSTRACT

This Regulation updates the Department of Education's ("DOE") policy regarding possession and use of electronic devices by students during the school day. Personal internet-enabled devices are not permitted to be used on school grounds during the school day, other than as provided for in specific circumstances consistent with this Regulation. Each school must establish a school-based policy regarding the use of electronic devices on school property that is consistent with this Regulation.

I. DEFINITIONS

A. For purposes of this regulation¹:

- a. An “internet-enabled electronic device” is an electronic device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet.
- b. A “non-internet-enabled electronic device” is an electronic device that is not capable of connecting to the Internet or enabling the user to access content on the internet.
- c. A “school day” means the entirety of an instructional day during all instructional and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, and study halls.
- d. “School grounds” means in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property of a school.
- e. “Parent” means a student’s parent(s) or guardian(s) or person(s) in any parental or custodial relationship to the student, or any individual designated by the parent to act in loco parentis or as otherwise set forth in [Chancellor's Regulation A-101](#).

B. Electronic devices include: 1) cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, and other similar communication devices (“communication devices”); 2) laptops, tablets, iPads and other similar computing devices (“computing devices”); and 3) portable music and entertainment systems (such as MP3 players and game consoles).

II. DOE POLICY

- A. Students may not use personal internet-enabled electronic devices during the school day.
- B. Students may be permitted to use internet-enabled electronic devices that are school-provided during the school day except as set forth in II D – II F below.
- C. Students may be permitted to use non-internet enabled electronic devices during the school day except as set forth in II D – II F below.
- D. Electronic devices may not be used during the administration of any school quiz, test or examination² unless such use has been explicitly authorized by the school or is contained in an Individualized Education Program (“IEP”) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan (“504 Plan”).
- E. Electronic devices may not be turned on or used during school fire drills or other emergency preparedness exercises.

¹ Definitions a – d are in accordance with the definitions in New York Education Law § 2803.

² Use of cell phones, computing devices, portable music and entertainment systems and other electronic devices during the administration of state standardized examinations is governed by State Education Department rules.

- F. Electronic devices may not be used in locker rooms or bathrooms.

III. EXCEPTIONS FOR PERSONAL INTERNET-ENABLED ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- A. Schools must authorize student use of personal internet-enabled electronic devices on school property during the school day under the following circumstances:
 - 1. If authorized by the school principal/designee for a specific educational purpose;
 - 2. Where necessary to monitor a medical condition and to notify the user of necessary action to be taken, for the management of a student's healthcare, as documented by the student's medical provider and subject to review by the Office of School Health;
 - 3. On a case-by-case basis, after 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 wellbeing of a family member; and
 - 4. Where required by law.
- B. Schools may authorize student use of personal internet-enabled electronic devices on school property during the school day under the following circumstances:
 - 1. In the event of an individual student emergency, where the parent has notified the principal/designee of the specific nature of the emergency.
 - 2. For translation and interpretation services if other means of translation or interpretation are not available.
- C. Students must be permitted to use personal internet-enabled electronic devices where such use is contained in an IEP or in a 504 plan, for (i) medical purpose; or (ii) an educational purpose, but the school has not yet secured a DOE-issued device for such purpose.

IV. STORAGE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

When a student brings a personal internet-enabled electronic device to school, such device must be turned off and stored during the school day in a manner determined by the school. Schools must provide at least one method for storage of devices, which may include, but are not limited to, school storage lockers, assigned student lockers, or other holders. Schools must also provide a method for students to access their stored devices during the school day when necessary.

V. ESTABLISHMENT OF WRITTEN SCHOOL-BASED POLICIES

- A. Principals must establish written school-based policies regarding the use of electronic devices that are consistent with this Regulation and set forth:
 - 1. the circumstances under which communication devices, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems may be used on school property; and
 - 2. the procedures for collection, storage and return of personal electronic devices.

- B. Schools must provide at least one method for parents to contact a student in an emergency or exigent circumstance, during the school day. This must include, at minimum, a direct phone number(s) provided by the school. Schools must provide written notification to parents of these method(s) upon enrollment and as set forth in Section VI A below.
- C. Principals must consult with the School Leadership Team (“SLT”) in developing school-based policies.
- D. Principals must have a plan in place for the first day of school of the 2025-26 school year.
- E. By October 31st of every year beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, each school must certify in its Consolidated School and Youth Development Plan that it has adopted a policy regarding the use of electronic devices on school property, and that it has communicated such policy to students, parents and staff as set forth in Section VI below.

VI. COMMUNICATION OF SCHOOL-BASED POLICIES

- A. At the start of each school year or upon enrollment of a new student, schools must provide written notification of this Regulation and the school’s policy to parents and must ensure that the school policy has been shared with staff and students. Any changes to the school’s policy must be communicated to students, parents and staff.
- B. Each school must post a notice of its policy on the school’s website.

VII. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

- A. Students who use electronic devices in violation of the DOE’s Discipline Code, the school’s policy, Chancellor’s Regulation A-413, and/or the DOE’s Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy (“IAUSP”) will be subject to progressive discipline in accordance with the guidance interventions and disciplinary responses set forth in the Discipline Code.
- B. A student may not be suspended on the sole grounds that the student accessed a personal internet-enabled electronic device in violation of school policy.

VIII. CONFISCATION OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

If a school confiscates an electronic device for violation of the DOE’s Discipline Code, the school’s policy, Chancellor’s Regulation A-413 and/or the DOE’s IAUSP, the principal/designee must contact the student’s parent. Confiscation, storage and return of such items must be handled in accordance with the school’s policy. (See Section V A above.)

IX. WAIVER

The Chancellor reserves the right to waive this regulation or any portion(s) thereof if determined to be in the best interests of the school system.

X. INQUIRIES

Inquiries regarding this regulation should be addressed to:

Office of Safety and Youth Development
N.Y.C. Department of Education
52 Chambers Street – Room 218
New York, NY 10007
Telephone: 212-374-4220
Fax: 212-374-5751