



What Families Should Know: New York State Cell Phone Policy

Distraction-Free Schools

Effective for the 2025–26 school year (starting September 2025), the policy mandates all New York State public schools to enforce a statewide **bell-to-bell ban on students' use of smartphones and other internet-enabled devices during the entire school day** — including class time, hallways, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing periods.



Students will be asked to **store their cell phones in their lockers.**

Parents and students can **communicate during school hours by utilizing the main office phone.** This will ensure families can still contact children in case of emergencies.

Simple (non-internet) phones are allowed, as well as **school-issued devices,** like laptops or tablets, used for instructional purposes

Cell phone policy will be found on the **district website.**

Approved Exceptions Allow Internet-Enabled Device Use For:

- managing medical needs (including documented IEP or 504 requirements)
- translation

Enforcement and Discipline Protocols:

Continued violations may lead to consequences as outlined in the district's code of conduct.

Scan the QR code above, or see the link below, regarding the Governor's orders for the cell phone policy
governor.ny.gov/news/distraction-free-schools-governor-hochul-announces-new-york-become-largest-state-nation

