



SY25–26 Cell Phone and Internet–Enabled Device Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy governs student possession and use of internet-enabled devices, including but not limited to smartphones, tablets, smartwatches (e.g., Apple Watch), and any similar device capable of accessing the internet, during the school day and on school grounds.

2. Definitions (per Section 2803)

- Internet-enabled device: Any device capable of accessing internet content, including social media.

Excludes:

- Non-internet-capable cellular phones or communication devices.
- Devices issued by the school for educational purposes.
- School day: Includes all instructional and non-instructional periods (e.g., homeroom, lunch, recess, study halls, passing time).
- School grounds: Includes buildings and other facilities on school property.

3. General Prohibition

Students are prohibited from using or possessing activated internet-enabled devices during the school day and anywhere on school grounds unless explicitly permitted under the exceptions outlined below.

4. Communication with Students

Parents/guardians who need to contact their student during the school day must do so through the Main Office (347) 473–8340. Staff will promptly relay all messages. Notification of this procedure will be provided annually and upon new student enrollment.

5. Yondr Pouch Expectations and Student Conduct

Scholars are not permitted to have their cell phone on their person during school hours. Brooklyn LAB provides Yondr pouches to ensure the safekeeping of devices throughout the school day.

- If a scholar damages or loses their Yondr pouch, a \$35 replacement fee will be charged.
- If a scholar refuses to secure their phone using the Yondr pouch, the phone will be confiscated and returned only to a parent or legal guardian.
- Repeated refusals may result in further consequences, including reflection, parent pickup, and/or family meetings with school staff.

While we prioritize safe storage of devices, scholars and families are reminded that failure to follow these procedures removes our ability to ensure device safety, and Brooklyn LAB will not be held responsible for lost or stolen items that were not secured.

After-school Use & Family Engagement:

When phones are used after school hours, families are encouraged to:

- Monitor their child’s social media activity.



- Reinforce positive digital behavior and appropriate online interactions.
- Talk regularly about conflict resolution and the consequences of physical and verbal altercations.

These conversations foster positive change, emotional growth, and self-regulation in our scholars.

6. Authorized Exceptions

Students may use internet-enabled devices only under the following circumstances:

- When expressly authorized by school staff for educational purposes.
- As required for medical management.
- In a documented emergency situation.
- When used for translation or accessibility services.
- When authorized by a school psychologist, social worker, or counselor for caregiver responsibilities.
- When required by law, or as stipulated in a student's:
 - Individualized Education Program (IEP).
 - Section 504 Plan under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

7. Confiscation and Consequences

- Unauthorized use may result in confiscation of the device by authorized personnel.
- If scholars refuse to secure their phone, they will receive a reflection.
- Multiple offences will result in confiscation of devices, and they will be held and returned only to a parent or legal guardian.
- School staff may not suspend students solely for violating this policy.
- Searches of devices, if necessary, must comply with applicable laws and be supported by reasonable suspicion. Searches must be limited in scope and documented.

8. Reporting and Equity Review

An annual report, including non-identifiable demographic data related to policy enforcement and any disparities, will be published on the school's website by September 1st of each year. If demographic disparities are found, a mitigation action plan will be developed.

9. Accessibility

This policy will be published by August 1, 2025, on the school's website and translated into the 12 most common non-English languages in New York State upon request.