

## STUDENTS

**This Policy is Required.**

### STUDENT USE OF INTERNET ENABLED DEVICES

#### I. Statement of Policy

In accordance with New York State Education Law § 2803, the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Board of Cooperative Educational Services (the BOCES) has adopted a policy prohibiting student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds. This policy is intended to align with the requirements of the “Distraction-Free Schools” legislation. BOCES shall implement procedures for communication, storage, and allowable exceptions as outlined in the law. The BOCES is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of internet-enabled devices brought onto school grounds.

#### II. Definitions

- A. Internet-Enabled Device - 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.
- B. School day - the entire instructional day, during all instructional and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing times.
- C. 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 district elementary, intermediate, junior high, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a board of cooperative educational services facility.

#### III. Prohibition of Internet-Enabled Devices in School

The use of Internet-Enabled Devices by students during the school day anywhere on school grounds is prohibited.

#### IV. Exceptions

- A. This Policy is not violated when students are authorized to use an Internet-Enabled Device in the following situation(s):
  - 1. The student has been authorized by a teacher, Building Principal, or the BOCES to use an Internet-Enabled Device for educational purposes during instructional time;
  - 2. Where the use is necessary to manage the student’s medical condition;
  - 3. In the event of an emergency;
  - 4. Where the use of an Internet-Enabled Device is part of the student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan;

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5. Where it is needed for translation purposes;
6. On a case-by-case basis, upon 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; or
7. Where otherwise required by law.

B. Students are authorized to have access to simple cellphones (i.e., phones without internet capability or access). Internet-Enabled Devices that have been provided to students for classroom instruction, such as laptops, tablets or other devices used as part of instruction, are also authorized for students to access.

#### V. Consequences for Violations of this Policy

The consequences for violation(s) of this Policy will be consistent with the Code of Conduct. However, the suspension of a student is not permitted if the sole grounds for the suspension is that the student accessed an Internet-Enabled Device in violation of this Policy.

#### VI. Contact During the School Day

Parents/Persons in parental relation may contact their student(s) during the school day in the following manner: Contact the Principal's Office for the program in which your student is enrolled:

Student Program	Phone Number
Adirondack Academy Alternative High School	518-736-4321
Career & Technical Education	518-736-4330
Pathways in Technology Early College HS (PTECH)	518-762-3714
Special Education	518-736-4350

#### VII. Storing Students' Internet-Enabled Devices

To comply with this policy, students' internet-enabled devices must be securely stored during the school day. Storage methods may vary by program and may include, but are not limited to:

- Individual student lockers
- Lockable storage pouches
- Designated locking storage units

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**VIII. Implementation**

The District Superintendent or their designee shall develop any Regulations or internal procedures that may be necessary to implement this Policy.

**IX. Required Notifications**

- A. A copy of this Policy shall be posted in a clearly visible and accessible location on the BOCES website.
- B. The BOCES shall provide a translation of this Policy upon request of a student or parent/person in parental relation in accordance with the law.
- C. Parents/Persons in Parental Relation will be notified in writing of the methods they can use to contact their student(s) during the school day, as outlined in Section VI of this Policy. This notification will occur at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment.

**X. Annual Reporting**

On September 1, 2026, and every September 1 thereafter, the BOCES shall publish, on its website, an annual report that details the enforcement of this Policy during the prior school year. This report must include:

- A. Non-identifiable demographic data of students who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance with this Policy.
- B. An analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement.
- C. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, such report shall include a mitigation action plan.

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Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Board of Cooperative Educational Services

Legal Ref: NYS Education Law §2803

Cross Ref: 1100, Code of Conduct; 5301, Purpose, Use, and Administration of BOCES  
Digital Information Systems

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_