

Cell Phone Policy Updates

Dobbs Ferry Messages to Parents:

March 6, 2025

2025-26 Anticipated “Bell-to-Bell” Ban of Student Cell Phone Use on School Campuses: Based on draft legislation from Governor Hochul, we fully expect a full school day ban on student cell phones in schools beginning in 2025-26. This “bell-to-bell” ban will prohibit phones from being used between the first bell of the day and the final dismissal bell at the end of the day, therefore this ban will include lunch and hallway passing times.

We encourage families to begin to plan for this so that we have a smooth transition beginning in September.

May 7, 2025

Cell Phones in Schools: Although NYS has still not adopted the 2025-26 budget (despite the legally required April 1 deadline...), we fully expect that a bell-to-bell ban on cell phones will be included in the final budget language. We have been discussing the implications of this with the board and administrators, including how phones might be stored while at school. As I have noted in earlier *Updates*, we need your help in managing this change, and ask that you set clear expectations with your children about either leaving the cell phone home, or following the rules that the district will establish for storing the phones at school. Much more to come on this in the weeks ahead.

May 21, 2025

Cell Phones in Schools: As part of the NYS Budget adoption process, New York State now has a restriction on the use of personal internet-enabled devices (e.g., cell phones, personal laptops, etc.) during the school day. As I have noted in earlier *Updates*, we will need your help in managing this change, and ask that you set clear expectations with your children about either leaving the cell phone home or following the rules that the district will establish for storing the phones at school during the day. The board will be discussing the details of the policy at the policy committee meeting and as the May 27 board meeting, and we will be consulting with various stakeholder groups along the way. Much more to come on this in the weeks ahead as the policy is required to be in place by August 1, 2025.