

30 July, 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

At a special meeting held on July 28, 2025, the Board of Education adopted [Policy 5695: Students and Personal Electronic Devices](#) - restricting the use of personal electronic devices (cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, and other non-school-issued devices) during the school day, including during recess and on-campus lunch periods. Under this new New York State required policy, student devices must be silenced/turned off and stored in a locker for students in grades 4-12 or stored in classroom “cubbies” for students in grades K-3, unless specifically authorized by an administrator for educational or medical purposes.

We recognize that electronic devices are a part of everyday life, and family members rely on these devices to communicate with one another. Over the past several years, however, we have seen a significant increase in the ways in which personal devices interfere with learning, create social challenges, and detract from the overall school experience. With this in mind, we need your partnership to help us implement this policy. Please review the expectations section of the policy and speak with your child(ren) about the importance of adhering to this policy (and the forthcoming regulations). Please take note of the ways for parents/guardians and students to communicate with one another during school hours and establish a communication plan with your child(ren) under our policy parameters.

For additional information on this policy, the work of the board’s policy committee, and a *Frequently Asked Questions* document that responds to many of the public comments we received, please see our [resource page](#). Our next steps include developing the regulations and user agreement that will guide the implementation of this policy, and developing a parent resource page that will include information on ways to manage your child’s phone during the school day. We will notify you when this information is available.

We know this may be a difficult adjustment for students and families, but we expect that this policy will help our students remain more present, engaged, and connected with their peers and teachers throughout the day. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [policy@dfs.org](mailto:policy@dfs.org).

Thanks very much,

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