

Summary of Education Law Sect 2803(c)

Use of internet-enabled devices during the school day

*"...each school district, charter school, and board of cooperative educational services shall adopt a written policy prohibiting the use of **internet-enabled devices** by students during **the school day** anywhere on **school grounds**."*

Definitions:

1. "Internet-enabled devices" means 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. This does **not** include:
 - a. non-internet-enabled devices such as cellular phones or other communication devices not capable of connecting to the internet or enabling the user to access content on the internet; or
 - b. internet-enabled devices supplied by the school district that are used for an educational purpose.
2. "School day" means the entirety of every instructional day during all instructional time and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.
3. "School grounds" means in, on, or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the property boundary line of a district elementary, middle, or high school.

Policy Development:

1. By August 1, 2025, each school district must adopt a written policy prohibiting the use of internet-enabled devices by students during the school day anywhere on school grounds.
2. Each school district must consult local stakeholders, including the employee organization representing each bargaining unit within the school building, parents, and students, in the development of the policy and prior to its adoption.

Parent Contact with Students:

1. The policy adopted must include one or more methods for parents/guardians to contact the student during the school day.
 - a. The district must provide written notification to parents/guardians of these methods at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment.

Device Storage:

1. The adopted policy must include one or more methods for on-site storage where students may store their internet-enabled devices during the school day. This can include student lockers.

Exceptions to the Prohibition:

1. The adopted policy may authorize student use of an internet-enabled device during the school day on school grounds:
 - a. if authorized by a teacher or principal for a specific educational purpose;
 - b. where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare;
 - c. in the event of an emergency as determined by the principal or district administration;
 - d. for translation services; and/or

- e. on a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor, for a student who is routinely responsible for the care and well-being of a family member; or where required by law.
2. The policy may not prohibit a student's use of an internet-enabled device where such use is included in the student's individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan.

Policy Adoption:

1. The district must adopt and publish the policy in a clearly visible and accessible location on its website.
2. A student or parent/guardian who is limited English proficient may request a translation of the adopted policy into any of the twelve most common non-English languages.

Reporting:

1. Beginning September 1, 2026, and by every September 1 thereafter, the district will develop a report including non-identifiable demographic data of students who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance with the policy.
 - a. A district may not suspend a student if the sole grounds for the suspension is that the student accessed an internet-enabled device in violation of the adopted policy.
2. The district will complete an analysis of any demographic disparities in the enforcement of the policy.
 - a. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, the report will include a mitigation action plan.

Decisions to be made

1. **Allowances**
 - a. Allow internet-enabled devices in schools/on school grounds
 - b. Do not allow internet-enabled devices in schools/on school grounds
 - c. Allow non-internet-enabled devices in schools/on school grounds
 - d. Do not allow devices in schools/on school grounds
2. **Storage** (If yes to 1(a) and 1(c))
 - a. Lock boxes
 - b. Pouches – group or individual
 - c. Lockers
3. **Methods of Parent/Guardian Contact**
4. **Exceptions** (beyond requirements for IEP, 504, documented health) if yes to 1(i) and 1(iii). May include:
 - a. Courses
 - b. HS lunch