

## **Distraction Free School Policy**

### **USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.**

In May 2025, a new law was enacted that prohibits students from using non-school issued internet-enabled devices during the school day while on school grounds. The law applies to all school districts, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, and charter schools, including SCHOOL. This policy was developed in consultation with SCHOOL stakeholders, including school leadership and staff, parents and students.

#### **For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:**

- a)** "Internet-enabled devices" shall mean and include any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch or other devices capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the use to access content on the internet, including social media applications, including, without limitation, computing devices such as laptops, iPad and tablets; portable music and entertainment devices such as iPod and gaming consoles.
- b)** "School day" shall mean the entirety of every instructional day.
- c)** "School Grounds" shall mean all building structures, athletic playing fields, playgrounds or land contained within the real property boundary line of the school.

### **Exemptions**

John V Lindsay Wildcat Academy Distraction Free School policy encompasses various exemptions to smartphone restrictions, including provisions for

- students who necessitate access to an internet-enabled device for medical management, as stipulated in their Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- for academic endeavors,
- other valid reasons such as translation, family caregiving, and emergencies.

### **Daily Process and Device Storage**

As students *arrive at school*, they will:

1. Turn their cell phone off before entering the building.
2. Place their cell phone, iPad and other wearable technology, including smart watches, etc., and attach a school or NYC state ID to device in front of school staff.

3. Staff will collect their device(s) and lock them in a secured cart for the remainder of the school day.

As students are *dismissed from school*:

1. Assigned staff members will open the cart and return student device(s) as they swipe out and exit the building.

### **Security of Devices**

SCHOOL will exercise reasonable care to maintain the security of devices that are held by the school but cannot guarantee the devices will be secure. SCHOOL shall not be responsible for any personal device that is lost, stolen or damaged during the School Day or at school-sponsored activities. Any lost, stolen or damaged personal device should be reported immediately to the Building Principal.

### **Violations for Use of Personal Electronic Devices**

The district is prohibited from suspending a student solely for accessing internet-enabled devices.

in violation of this policy.

Violations of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action which may include:

- **Device Confiscation** - Confiscated items will only be returned to the parent/legal guardian following a behavioral conference regarding the violation of the school discipline code; and/or
- **Privilege Revocation** – Students may lose the privilege to bring electronic items to school

### **Parent/Guardian Communication**

To accommodate necessary communication from parents, parents may use the following methods to contact their student during school hours while adhering to this policy:

NYC Main – 646-993-1833

Bronx Main – 646-993-1844

Michael Morene – 646-993-1856

Darlene Fuller – 646-993-1862

Lewin Murrell – 646-993-1857

Tyheen Taylor -646-993-1864

Requests for rapid dismissal, early pickup, and appointments before or after school may be directed to [info@jvlwildcat.org](mailto:info@jvlwildcat.org)

**Posting and Translation of Policy**

As required by law, this policy will be available in a clearly visible and accessible location on SCHOOL's website. Translations of the policy into the 12 most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in the state will be provided upon request by a student or parent.

**Reporting and Mitigation Action Plan**

Beginning September 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, SCHOOL will publish an annual report on its website detailing enforcement of this policy during the prior school year. This report will include non-identifiable demographic data of students who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance and analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement of this policy. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, the report will include a mitigation action plan.