



Public Notice

July 8, 2025

AMENDMENTS TO CHANCELLOR'S REGULATION

Number: A-413

Subject: CELL PHONE AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

Chancellor's Regulation A-413 sets forth the Department of Education (DOE)'s policy regarding possession and use of electronic devices by students during the school day. The policy is being updated to align with New York Education Law § 2803 (Section 2803), enacted in May 2025, which requires school districts to adopt written policies prohibiting the use of internet-enabled devices, excluding school-provided internet-enabled devices, by students during the school day on school grounds.

The prior version of the Regulation, dated February 26, 2015, will be revised to conform to the requirements in Section 2803. The substance of the regulation will be amended in the following respects:

Section I. Definitions

- Add Definition section.
- Define the terms "internet-enabled electronic device," "non-internet enabled electronic device," "school day," "school grounds," and "parent" in accordance with Section 2803 and Chancellor's Regulation A-101.
- Update examples of electronic devices.

Section II. DOE Policy

- Update the DOE policy regarding electronic devices to prohibit use of personal internet-enabled electronic devices during the school day.
- Add provisions permitting use of school-provided electronic devices and non-internet enabled electronic devices.

Section III. Exceptions for Personal Internet-Enabled Electronic Devices

- Add Exceptions section.

- Provide specific exceptions to the prohibition of personal internet-enabled electronic devices consistent with Section 2803, as follows:
 - Add the following required exceptions:
 1. If authorized by the school for a specific educational purpose;
 2. Where necessary to monitor a medical condition and to notify a user of necessary action to be taken, for the management of a student's healthcare, as determined by the student's medical provider and subject to review by the Office of School Health;
 3. On a case-by-case basis, after 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; and
 4. Where required by law.
 - Add the following exceptions that a school may include in their plan:
 1. In the event of an individual student emergency, where the parent has notified the principal/designee of the specific nature of the emergency; and
 2. For translation and interpretation services if other means of translation or interpretation are not available.
- Provide that students must be permitted to use personal internet-enabled devices where such use is contained in an IEP or in a 504 plan, for (i) a medical purpose or (ii) an educational purpose, but the school has not yet secured a DOE-issued device for such purpose.

Section IV. Storage of Electronic Devices

- Add Storage of Electronic Devices section.
- Require schools to provide at least one method for storage of personal electronic devices.
- Provide examples of different storage methods.

Section V. Establishment of Written School-Based Policies

- Require schools to provide at least one method for parents to contact their student in an emergency or exigent circumstance during the school day, which must include, at minimum, direct phone number(s) provided by the school.
- Require schools to provide written notification to parents of such methods.
- Remove outdated requirement for interim policies for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Require that principals have a plan in place for the first day of school of the 2025-2026 school year.

Section VI. Communication of School-Based Policies

- Remove outdated timelines.
- Require that at the start of each school year or upon enrollment of a new student, schools must provide written notification of this Regulation and the school's policy to parents and must ensure that the school policy has been shared with staff and

parents.

- Remove requirement that schools conduct an annual orientation on this Regulation and the school's policy.
- Require that changes to school policy be communicated to students, parents and staff.

Section VII. Student Discipline

- Clarify that students will be subject to progressive discipline.
- Provide a restriction on suspension solely on the grounds that a student accessed a personal internet-enabled electronic device in violation of school policy.

Section VIII. Confiscation of Electronic Devices

- Clarify heading and terms used in accordance with Definition section.

II. Summary of all public comments received since the initial public notice was posted.

Since the initial public notice posted on June 6, 2025, public comments were received from one commenter on July 3, 2025.

Regarding Section III.A.3 setting forth the exception for student caregivers, the commenter suggested that the principal be part of the final approval process.

Regarding Section V.B. on methods of parent contact and written notification of these methods to parents, the commenter suggested that this be a city-wide recommendation (e.g., parents contact the main school number and schools will arrange for the student to call the parent back). The commenter also suggested that parent contact be limited to emergency events or other extenuating circumstances.

Regarding Section VI.B. on communication of school-based policies, the commenter recommended that the requirement for an annual orientation on the Regulation and the school's policy should instead be a sign-off stating that the Regulation and any school policy has been shared with parents and that staff has read and understood.

Regarding Section VII.A on student discipline, the commenter recommended that the DOE establish a uniform citywide disciplinary response for students who repeatedly violate Regulation A-413.

III. Additional revisions since the initial public notice was posted.

Since the initial public notice posted on June 6, 2025, the following additional revisions have been made:

a. Additional revisions

Section III. Exceptions for Personal Internet-Enabled Electronic Devices

- Provide that exception for management of a student's healthcare applies where necessary to monitor a medical condition and to notify the user of a necessary action to be taken.
- Clarify that exception where use is contained in an IEP or 504 plan is for (i) a medical purpose or (ii) an educational purpose.

Section IV. Storage of Electronic Devices

- Revise examples of storage methods to include assigned student lockers or other holders.
- Remove example of storage by students in their backpacks.

Section V. Establishment of Written School-Based Policies

- Provide that methods for parents to contact a student during the school day must include, at a minimum, calling direct phone number(s) provided by the school.
- Provide that principals must have a plan in place for the first day of school of the 2025-2026 school year.

Section VII. Student Discipline

- Clarify that students will be subject to progressive discipline.

b. Additional revisions in response to public comments

Section III. Exceptions for Personal Internet-Enabled Electronic Devices

- No additional revisions.

Section V. Establishment of Written School-Based Policies

- Provide that methods for parents to contact a student are for an emergency or other exigent circumstance.

Section VI. Communication of School-Based Policies

- Require that at the start of each school year or upon enrollment of a new student, schools must provide written notification of this Regulation and the school's policy to parents and must ensure that the school policy has been shared with staff and parents.
- Remove requirement that schools conduct an annual orientation on this Regulation and the school's policy

Section VII. Student Discipline

- No additional revisions.

IV. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.

The full text of the proposed amendments to the regulation can be found on the meeting schedule section of the website of the Panel for Educational Policy: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>.

V. Name, office, address, email, and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable about the item under consideration, for whom information may be obtained concerning the item.

Name: Bianka Bernabe

Office: Office of Safety and Youth Development

Address: 52 Chambers Street, Room 218, New York, NY 10007

Email: RegulationA-413@schools.nyc.gov

Phone: 212-374-2435

Written comments may be submitted via the email address listed above. Oral comments may be submitted via the phone number listed above. The deadline for comments is July 22, 2025.

VI. Date, time, and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

July 23, 2025, at 6pm

M.S. 131

100 Hester Street

Manhattan, NY 10002