



**Public Notice**  
June 6, 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 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, but the school has not yet secured a DOE-issued device for such purpose, or in a 504 Plan

### 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 during the school day and to provide written notification to parents of such methods.
- Remove outdated requirement for interim policies for the 2014-2015 school year.

### Section VI. Communication of School-Based Policies

- Remove outdated timelines.
- Require that changes to school policy be communicated to students, parents and staff.

### Section VII. Student 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. 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>.

**III. 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

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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. We strongly encourage comments by July 3, 2025, ahead of the deadline for substantive revisions on July 8, 2025.

**IV. 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

Additional information about the location of the meeting will be forthcoming.