



Community Partnership Charter School

Lower School *Middle School*
241 Emerson Pl 114 Kosciusko Street
Brooklyn, NY 11205 Brooklyn, NY 11216

Beginning with Children Charter School 2

Lower School *Middle School* 215 Heyward
St 11 Bartlett Street
Brooklyn, NY 11206 Brooklyn, NY 11206

Community High School

250 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

DISTRACTION FREE SCHOOL POLICY

USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

In May 2025, a new law was enacted prohibiting 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 Community Partnership Charter School Education Corporation schools (CPCSEC). This policy is developed in consultation with Beginning with Children Charter School 2, Community Partnership Charter School and Community High School stakeholders, including school leadership and staff, parents and students.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Internet-enabled device(s): smartphone, tablet, smartwatch or other devices capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user 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.

Non-internet enabled device(s): cellular phone or other communication device not capable of connecting to the internet or enabling the student to access the internet.

Parent: a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) or person(s) in any parental or custodial relationship to the student, or any individual designated by the parent to act in loco parentis.

School Day: The entirety of the instructional day (including all non-instructional time during the school day such as homeroom period, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time).

School Grounds: All building structures, athletic playing fields, playgrounds or land contained within the real property boundary line of the school.

Students shall not use internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds unless such use is subject to an exception set forth in this policy. This policy does not preclude the use of (i) non-internet-enabled devices; or (ii) internet-enabled devices supplied by the school for educational services.

Exceptions

1. Lunch Off Campus
2. If authorized by a teacher, principal or school for a specific educational purpose.
3. If necessary for the management of a student's healthcare
4. In the event of an emergency
5. For translation services
6. On a case-by-case basis, upon 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.
7. Where required by law

Students are permitted to use an internet-enabled device where the use is documented on an:

- a) Individualized Education Program (IEP); or b) Section 504 Plan

A parent may make a request under one of the above exceptions to the school Principal.

Any healthcare-related exception must also include documentation from a healthcare professional affirming such need.

On-Site Storage of Internet-Enabled Devices Including Cell Phones

Students must store their Internet-enabled devices in designated on-site storage areas during the school day. On-site storage areas may include, but are not limited to, student lockers, secure storage in the main office, or other designated secure storage systems.

Principals will communicate the procedures for storing and retrieving devices, ensuring that students understand their responsibilities in using the on-site storage facilities provided. CPCSEC schools require that student internet-enabled devices are collected either in the classroom or at school building entry at the beginning of the day. School staff will ensure storage bins or areas are secured and devices are unavailable during the class period. Devices will be distributed to students immediately before lunch and must be returned to storage immediately following lunch. The phones will be distributed to students at the end of the day by their classroom teachers or supervising staff members at dismissal.

Methods for Parents to Contact Students During the School Day

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

Phone Calls: parents can arrange scheduled phone calls with their child during breaks or lunch periods. Schools may also opt to have designated phone lines for parent communication, and teachers may offer the option of phone conversations.

ParentSquare: parents can access ParentSquare, the school's digital communication platform, to message main office staff and their child's teacher(s) during the school day. ParentSquare provides a centralized location for various communication needs, including mass school notifications and classroom communication.

Email: schools will post staff email addresses for parents on school parent portals. Parents may send direct email messages to main office staff and their child's teacher(s) to contact their child during the school day.

Text Messaging: schools will allow parents to use the school's parent portal to send messages to their child's

teacher or main office staff, especially for urgent matters or reminders.

Student Discipline for Accessing Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day

Cell phones may not interfere with the school learning environment. CPCSEC schools are prohibited from suspending a student solely for accessing internet-enabled devices in violation of this policy. The CPCSEC Family Handbook outlines consequences and/or interventions for student violations of this policy. Some uses of internet-enabled devices will constitute a separate violation of the Code of Conduct, other School policies, or in some the most serious cases, the law. CPCSEC schools will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Security of Devices

CPCSEC schools will take reasonable steps to secure and safeguard student devices once they are collected for on-site storage, including storing them in locked or otherwise secure areas and limiting access to authorized staff. While the school will exercise care and maintain security measures, it cannot guarantee that devices will not be lost, stolen, or damaged.

If a device is damaged or goes missing after it has been collected and secured by the school, the school will review the circumstances and, where appropriate, accept responsibility. However, the school cannot assume responsibility for damage that occurs before collection, or for pre-existing damage to the device.

Any loss, theft, or damage should be reported immediately to the school principal so that the matter can be addressed promptly.

Posting and Translation of Policy

As required by law, this policy will be available in a clearly visible and accessible location on CPCSEC schools' websites. 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, CPEC schools will publish an annual report on school websites 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.