



FLACS Bell to Bell Cell Phone Ban Plan

New York State has adopted a bell-to-bell ban on smartphones and other internet-enabled personal devices during the day. The following is the policy of Family Life Academy Charter Schools. Prior to adoption, consultation with local stakeholders, including parents, students, and staff were made. FLACS plans to institute a survey annually to solicit feedback annually. Upon request, this policy will be provided in other languages.

Statement of Policy

FLACS scholars may not have their cell phones or other internet-abled devices at any point during the school day (bell to bell). FLACS schools implement the following:

- **Elementary Schools (K-5):** Students must turn in their device to their classroom teacher at the beginning of the school day. These will be locked up in a lock box by the classroom teacher.
- **Middle Schools (6-8):** Students turn in any personal devices to be locked in special cell phone lockers during their first period class which have individual keys. These are not accessible to students at any point in the day. At the end of the day, students return to their first period room to retrieve the devices. Students who arrive late will turn in their phone upon entry to be locked in the main office.
- **High Schools (9-12):** Upon arrival and before heading past the lobby, students turn in any personal devices to be placed in numbered bags which are in turn locked in the main office for the duration of the day.

There is a zero tolerance policy for having a device during the school day. If a cell phone or other cellular and internet enabled device is used during the school hours, any staff member has the right to confiscate the device and give it to a school administrator until the end of the day. A parent or other adult will need to pick up the confiscated item.

Methods for Parents to Contact their Scholars

If parents or those in parental relation to a student need to contact the student during the school day, they should call the school's main phone number, which is listed on the website: flacsny.com.

This information is also shared in writing in the Parent Student Handbook which is shared upon enrollment and before the start of each school year.

The following exceptions apply:

- Devices issued by the school for academic use (i.e., Chromebooks, iPads) which are monitored by the school.
- Devices required for medical purposes.
- Devices that are mandated use as part of a 504 Plan or IEP.