

KIPP NYC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

STUDENT USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES POLICY

This policy is the KIPP NYC Public Charter Schools (“KIPP NYC”) Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices Policy (the “Policy”). As part of KIPP NYC’s efforts to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for students and educators, this policy outlines the use of Internet-enabled Devices (as defined below) by students during the school day in accordance with §2803 of the New York State Education Law.

Use of Internet-Enabled Devices:

Students may use Internet-enabled Devices¹ during the school day on school grounds in the following circumstances:

- a. *Authorized by the school for an educational related purpose:* Students may use Internet-enabled Devices that are supplied by KIPP NYC (e.g., school-issued Chromebooks) that are used for a specific educational purpose;
- b. *IEP related:* If required by an individualized education program or a section 504 accommodation plan, the student may use an Internet-enabled Device;
- c. *Health reasons:* Internet-enabled Devices may be used by students when necessary for the management of a student’s healthcare;
- d. *Emergency:* Internet-enabled Devices may be used in the event of an emergency;
- e. *Caregiving:* On a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school social worker, a student who is a caregiver, routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member, may use an Internet-enabled Device;
- f. *Legal requirement:* an Internet-enabled Device may be used by a student where required by law.

¹ “Internet-enabled Devices” refers to any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, or other device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including social media applications. “Internet-enabled Devices” does not include non-internet-enabled devices such as cell phones or other communication devices not capable of connecting to the internet or enabling the user to access content on the internet.

Prohibitions on Use of Internet-enabled Devices:

Other than as indicated above, Internet-enabled Devices (including but not limited to cell phones) are not to be used during the school day on school grounds.

Schools may collect Internet-enabled Devices at the beginning of the school day and secure them in a safe space (such as a lockable electronic device storage bag or locked classroom storage space) until the end of the school day.

Schools may also require students to power down their cell phones and/or other Internet-enabled Devices and store them in their personal backpacks or school locker during the school day.

Contact by Parent/Guardian:

If a parent/guardian wishes to contact their child during the school day, they can call the main office of their child's school or contact the child's teacher or other school staff member using the school's direct communication software application.

If a student needs to make a phone call, they are to use the office phone after receiving permission from a school staff member.

Consequences for violation of the Policy:

If a student is found to be using an Internet-enabled Device in violation of this Policy, the school may administer the following consequences:

For kindergarten through eighth grade students:

- First instance of non-compliance: confiscation of student's Internet-enabled Device(s) until dismissal.
- Subsequent instances of non-compliance: confiscation of student's Internet-enabled Device(s) until dismissal, plus notification to parent/guardian of student's violation of this Policy and request that parent/guardian come to school to pick up the Internet-enabled Device(s). The school will also maintain a written record of the violation.

For high school students:

- First instance of non-compliance: confiscation of student's Internet-enabled Device(s) until dismissal, plus notification to student's parent/guardian.
- Subsequent instances of non-compliance: confiscation of student's Internet-enabled Device(s) until student's parent/guardian comes to the school to pick up such Internet-enabled Device(s), and written record of the violation. The student must also turn in all electronic devices and Internet-enabled Device(s) upon arrival to a school dean or other designated staff member every school day for six (6) weeks.²

Loss or damage to storage bags:

If a student's lockable electronic device storage bag is lost or damaged, students may be requested to pay a replacement fee. Additional consequences for subsequent loss or repeated damage of a storage bag include community service, detention, or suspension³.

Additional Policy Requirements:

This Policy shall be posted on the KIPP NYC website, and also included in each school's Student & Family Handbook, which is to be circulated to parents/guardians upon a student's enrollment and in the beginning of every school year.

Upon request by a student or parent/guardian, KIPP NYC will provide a translation of this Policy in accordance with applicable law.

On September 1 of each year beginning September 1, 2026, KIPP NYC shall publish an annual report on its website detailing enforcement of this Policy in the prior school year, including 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, such report shall include a mitigation action plan.

² KIPP NYC is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage to cell phones and other Internet-enabled Device(s) confiscated as a result of a student's violation of this Policy.

³ A student may not be suspended on the sole ground that the student accessed an Internet-enabled Device in violation of this Policy.

Definitions:

“School day” in this Policy means the entirety of every instructional day, including but not limited to lunch and recess.

“School grounds” in this Policy means in any building, structure, athletic playing field, or playground.