

Prohibition on Internet-Enabled Device Use During the School Day

1. Purpose

This policy, adopted by the Champlain Valley Educational Services (CVES) BOCES Board establishes a BOCES-wide prohibition on student use of Internet-enabled devices during the school day, in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

2. Definitions

Internet-Enabled Devices shall mean any device capable of connecting to the Internet and enabling the user to access content on the Internet, including but not limited to social media applications. Such devices shall include, but not be limited to, smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, laptops, and other portable electronic communication or computing devices. Internet-enabled devices supplied by the BOCES or home districts that are used for an educational purpose are not included in this definition.

School Day shall mean the entirety of every instructional day, including during instructional and non-instructional time, including, but not limited to, homeroom periods, labs and clinicals, lunch, recess, study hall and passing time.

School Grounds shall mean in or on or within any building, structure, on or off-site labs and clinicals, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of the BOCES.

3. Prohibited Use

Students are prohibited from using Internet-enabled devices on school grounds during the school day, except as expressly permitted under the exceptions outlined in this policy.

4. Exceptions

Student use of an Internet-enabled device during the school day on school grounds may be authorized in the following limited circumstances:

- a. **Educational Use:** If authorized by a teacher, principal, or the BOCES for a specific educational purpose.
- b. **Health & Safety:** Where necessary for managing a student's healthcare, or in the event of an emergency.
- c. **Language Needs:** When needed by a student for translation services.
- d. **Student Caregivers:** On a case-by-case basis for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member. Such use

will be permitted only upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor.

- e. **Legal Requirements:** When the use of such devices is required by law.
- f. **504/IEP Plans:** Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or otherwise limit a student's use of an Internet-enabled device where such use is included in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

5. Communication and Contact

The BOCES shall provide at least one method for parents or persons in parental relation to a student to contact the student during the school day. The contact methods provided will include, but not be limited to, the following: Main Office . Written notification detailing how parents or persons in parental relation to a student may contact students during the school day shall be provided to parents or persons in parental relation to a student at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment.

6. Storage of Devices

The BOCES shall provide methods for students to store Internet-enabled devices on-site during the school day. Storage options include, but are not limited to: student lockers, cubbies, storage containers, and additional storage options authorized by CVES BOCES administration in accordance with CVES BOCES regulations.

7. Discipline and Enforcement

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary penalties pursuant to the BOCES Code of Conduct and subject to applicable law and regulations. Progressive discipline or restorative practices may be used in cases of repeated violations, consistent with the Code.

8. Accessibility and Language Access

This policy shall be clearly posted and accessible on the BOCES website. Upon request by a student, parent, or person in parental relation to a student, a translation of this policy into any of the twelve most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in New York State shall be provided.

9. Regulations

The Board authorizes and directs the District Superintendent to establish regulations implementing this policy.