

## **RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5695: STUDENTS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

***\*\*First and foremost, we are asking that students leave these items at home.\*\****

The Board of Education recognizes that students may have personal electronic devices that can perform different functions. Such devices include “Internet-enabled devices” defined as: 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, but do not include any such device supplied by the district for educational purposes. These devices can create significant distractions to the school environment, negatively impact student mental health, contribute to disciplinary infractions, and reduce student engagement. Additionally, in an emergency, the use of personal electronic devices can distract students from following the directions of staff or emergency responders, contributes to the spread of misinformation, create congestion in the emergency response system, and interfere with the district’s emergency response protocols. As such, the following procedures have been put in place at Francis Parker School No. 23 beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

- **Communication with Parents/Persons in Parental Relation**

- During the school day, to minimize distractions, parents (which, for purposes of this policy, includes persons in parental relation) may contact their children via the following methods: calling the school, and/or emailing the appropriate school personnel. If allowed pursuant to the protocols of each specific school, students may contact their parents by calling from the school. The district will notify parents in writing of the communication protocol at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment. Generally, the District is not responsible for stolen, lost, or damaged personal electronic devices brought to school.

- **Personal Electronic Device Access**

- As required by NYS Education Law §2803, this policy prohibits student use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day (including all classes, homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time) on school grounds (any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the boundary of a school or district or BOCES facility), unless under an exception (i.e., IEP/Section 504 or as permitted below). Students are discouraged from bringing personal electronic devices to school.
- If students at the elementary school level bring personal electronic devices to school, they must be silenced and turned over to the appropriate or designated school personnel (classroom teachers, administrators, etc.) for storage.

- **Classroom Personal Electronic Device Storage Procedure**

- o Upon arrival at the classroom, students must turn off all their electronic devices and place them within their classroom's locked electronic device cabinet.
- o At dismissal, students will retrieve their electronic device(s) from the classroom electronic device cabinet and place them in their bookbags.

- **Enforcement, Consequences and Reporting**

- o Enforcement of this policy is chiefly the responsibility of building administrative staff; however, all designated employees are expected to assist in enforcement. Students will be reminded of this policy regularly and consistently, especially at the start of the school year and after returning from breaks.
- o For students out of compliance with this policy, the school must follow the disciplinary protocol outlined in the matrix under "Portable Electronic Device Use at Unauthorized Times" in policy 1400, Code of Conduct.
  - **First Infraction:** Verbal warning given to the student.
  - **Second Infraction:** The electronic device(s) will be confiscated by an administrator and parent notification will occur. The device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day with a verbal warning given.
  - **Third Infraction:** The electronic device will be confiscated by an administrator and parent/guardian notification will occur. The electronic device will be returned to the parent/guardian following a meeting with an administrator.