

Distraction Free Schools Policy

In accordance with applicable law and regulations, Young Women's College Prep Charter School prohibits students from using internet-enabled devices on school grounds during the school day, except as expressly permitted under the exceptions outlined in this policy.

Definitions

Internet-enabled devices: Internet-enabled devices include any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, or other device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling access to content on the internet, including social media applications. Internet-enabled devices do not include the following:

- Non-internet enabled devices such as cellular phones or other communication devices not capable of connecting to the internet or enabling the individual to access content on the internet.
- Internet-enabled devices supplied by the school district, charter school, or board of cooperative educational services (BOCES) that are used for an educational purpose.

School Day: The school day shall mean the entirety of every instructional day during all instructional and non-instructional time. This includes homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.

School Grounds: The school grounds shall mean in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a district elementary, intermediate, junior high, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a BOCES facility.

Daily Process

Upon entering school, students will give their devices to a school designee to be placed in a padded envelope with said students name on it. All devices will be stored in a locked cabinet in the main office, accessible by only designated school personnel.

Communication & Contact

During the school day, parents and guardians can communicate with their students by calling the school main office line. When possible, a student will be called to the office to take the call so long as it does not take away from classroom instruction. If not possible, main office personnel will take a message and relay it immediately to the student.

During the school day, students may contact their parents and guardians by utilizing the phone in the main office or the wellness center so long as it does not take away from classroom instruction.

Exceptions

Exemptions to this policy will include:

- Authorization by a teacher, principal, or the school district, charter school, or BOCES for a specific educational purpose.
- Instances where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare.
- Usage in the event of an emergency.
- Usage for translation services.
- Usage on a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by the Principal for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member.
- Or, where required by law.

Additionally, the policy may not prohibit the use of an internet-enabled device where it is included in the student's individualized education program (IEP) or section 504 plans.