

# **VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT TWENTY FOUR**

## **STUDENT USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES**

## **Policy 5100**

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The Board of Education recognizes that students may have personal internet-enabled electronic devices that can perform different functions. These devices create significant distractions and reduce student engagement. Thus, in accordance with the law, this policy aims to maintain an environment conducive to learning and free from distraction.

### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, and consistent with applicable law, the following definitions apply.

“Internet-enabled devices” shall mean and include 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. This term shall not include:

1. Non-internet enabled devices such as cellular phones or other communication devices not capable of connecting to the internet or enabling the user to access content on the internet; or
2. Internet-enabled devices supplied by the School District that are used for educational purposes.

“School day” shall mean the entirety of every instructional day, including all instructional and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.

“School grounds” shall mean in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of any School District school building. It also includes any location during a school-sponsored field trip and school buses.

### **Prohibition on Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices**

All students in grades K-6 are prohibited from using internet-enabled devices, as outlined above, anywhere on school grounds during the school day.

During the school day, students and their parents and/or guardians may communicate via the school building. The School District will establish and maintain a dedicated phone line for urgent parental communication with students during the school day via the school office phone.

The School District will provide written notification of the parental communication methods to parents and/or guardians at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment of new students.

Students may store internet-enabled devices in their personal student classroom cubbies and closets. The School District will provide additional methods of on-site storage where students

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may store internet-enabled devices during the school day. Based on administrative discretion and budgetary allowances, such methods of on-site storage may include, but are not limited to classroom cubbies, closets, as well as other technology or equipment.

### **Authorized Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices**

Students will be authorized to use internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds only in the following circumstances:

1. If authorized by a teacher, principal, or the School District for a specific educational purpose;
2. Where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare;
3. In the event of an emergency;
4. For translation services;
5. On a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, social worker, or counselor, for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member; or
6. Where required by law.

This policy will not prohibit a student's use of an internet-enabled device where such use is included in the student's:

1. Individualized Education Program (IEP); or
2. Plan developed pursuant to § 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

### **Enforcement**

Enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of building administrative staff; however, all designated employees are expected to assist with enforcement. Students in violation of this policy will have their device removed by administrators and retained in a secure location for the student's parents and/or guardians to retrieve at the end of the school day. Administrators will discuss the aims of this policy with students and their parents and/or guardians, the reasons the student had difficulty following this policy, and how the School District may help the student. Subsequent violations may result in consequences under the School District's code of conduct.

No student will be suspended for their unauthorized use of an internet-enabled device in violation of this policy if such unauthorized use is the sole grounds for the suspension.

### **Annual Reporting**

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No later than September 1st of each year, the School District will publish on its website an annual report detailing the School District's enforcement of this policy during the prior school year. The annual report will include non-identifiable demographic data of students who faced disciplinary actions for non-compliance with this policy, as well as analysis of any demographic disparities in the enforcement of this policy. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, the School District's report will include a mitigation action plan.

### **Publication and Translation**

This policy will be published in a clearly visible and accessible location on the School District's website. Translation of this policy into any of the twelve most common, non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in the state—based on the data of the most recent United States Census Bureau Survey—will be provided upon request by a student or persons in parental relation to a student.

Cross-ref: 5131, Code of Conduct

Ref: Education Law § 2803  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 § 504, 29 U.S.C. 794

Adoption date: July 1, 2025