



June 24, 2025

Dear Parents & Guardians,

In accordance with Governor Hochul's 2025 New York State Budget and Education Law 2803 each School District in New York State must adopt and implement a bell-to-bell "internet-enabled device" ban. An internet-enabled device is defined as smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, or any personal device that is capable of connecting to the internet, including social media applications. Devices supplied by the school are exempt from this ban. As educators and leaders, we are dedicated to providing a school environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. However, these devices can be seen as an obstacle and distraction in the classroom and school community. There has also been a rise in mental health concerns and disciplinary concerns directly related to student cell phone use.

Our Technology and Shared Decision Making Teams, consisting of board members, administration, teachers, parent representation, and student representation, have been meeting on this topic to develop a shared plan to implement moving forward. We have also reviewed this topic with the entire Board of Education, which has given its full support.

Starting with the 2025-2026 school year, Wilson Central School District will implement a "Bell-to-Bell No Cell" procedure in all of its schools. We will be meeting with all students at the beginning of the school year to review all school procedures, including this new rule, and answer questions. We will also be hosting a parent question and answer session on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6:15 PM, just prior to the Board of Education Meeting in the high school auditorium.

**How will this be implemented?**

- Smart devices such as cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, headphones, and other internet-enabled devices are required to be off and put away in student lockers/bookbags during the school day.
- Internet-enabled devices are prohibited from being used by students during the school day (including but not limited to classroom, homeroom, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time) on school grounds, including buildings, structures, athletic fields, or playgrounds.



- If parents/guardians need to reach their child during the school day for an emergency, please call the main office of your child's school. We will ensure students receive messages in a timely manner. For all other non-emergency messages, students may check their phones after school as they leave the building. Parents are also permitted to email students, but please note that all school devices are monitored by the district.
- Use of internet enabled devices are permitted when included on a student's IEP, 504 plan or where necessary to manage a student's healthcare needs, exceptions should be discussed with an administrator.

If a student does not follow this rule, what happens?

- First Offense- the student will be referred to the office, a warning will be given, and the student will pick up their device at the end of the day.
- Second Offense- the student will be referred to the office, a 2nd warning will be given, and the student's parent/guardian may be asked to pick up their device at the end of the day
- Third Offense- the student will receive 1 day of Alternative Learning Center ALC for insubordination, a plan will be made in partnership between the school and the family to either store the device in the office each day or to leave it at home. The student's parent/guardian may be asked to pick up their device at the end of the day
- Fourth Offense- the student will receive 3 days of Alternative Learning Center ALC for insubordination. The student's parent/guardian may be asked to pick up their device at the end of the day
- Fifth Offense or more- the student will receive 5 days of out-of-school suspension for insubordination. The student's parent/guardian may be asked to pick up their device at the end of the day

Please review this letter with your child and the expectations of the new procedure. By supporting these efforts, we can help our students regain their relationships, focus on academic success, and safety. We look forward to seeing a positive transformation in our school community and cannot do it without the cooperation of our parents, students, faculty, and staff.

Sincerely,  
  
Timothy P. Carter, Superintendent