Annual Distraction-Free Schools Policy Enforcement Report

Reporting Year: _____2025-2026_____
District/BOCES: _____BTBOCES_____
Date Published: _____July 2, 2026 (prepared)_____

1. Policy Overview

Provide a brief description of the distraction-free schools policy, including grades covered, devices covered, enforcement expectations, and any notable implementation details.

In compliance with Education Law §2803 (effective August 1, 2025), this policy prohibits students from using "internet-enabled devices" (such as smartphones, tablets, and smartwatches) during the entire school day while on school grounds. This includes all classes, homeroom, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing times. The policy aims to reduce classroom distractions, boost student engagement, and prevent communication interference or misinformation during school emergencies. All students, all programs and all grades.

Enforcement Expectations:

- Responsibility: Enforcement is primarily the duty of building administrative staff, though all designated employees are expected to assist.
- Reminders: Students will receive regular and consistent reminders regarding the policy, specifically at the start of the school year and following school breaks.
- Progressive Consequences: * First Offense: The device will be confiscated and held in the school office until the end of the school day.
- Subsequent Offenses: A parent or guardian must physically come to the school to retrieve the device.
- Disciplinary Limits: School suspension cannot be imposed or recommended as the sole consequence for violating this policy. However, standard Code of Conduct penalties—such as detention, in-school suspension (ISS), or exclusion from extracurricular activities—may be utilized.

Annual Reporting: Beginning September 1, 2026, BOCES must publish an annual public report on its website analyzing enforcement data. This report will track non-identifiable student demographics to monitor and mitigate any statistically significant enforcement disparities.

Device storage & access:

- Campus Autonomy: Campus administrators can decide on local storage protocols. Options include classroom containers, school offices, lockers, homeroom caddies, or individual pouches. All devices must be silenced.
- Other Personal Electronics: Non-internet devices (e.g., headphones, e-readers, calculators, mp3 players) are strongly discouraged. If brought to school, they must remain silent and hidden in backpacks or lockers unless explicitly permitted.

2. Enforcement Summary

Measure	Number
Total Student Enrollment	2333
Students Receiving at Least One Violation	70
Total Violations Recorded	70
Verbal Warnings	32
Device Confiscations	0
Parent Notifications	7
Detentions	0
Documented for office use	31

3. Demographic Analysis

Provide non-identifiable demographic information regarding students who faced disciplinary action for noncompliance with the policy.

	Total Enrollment	# of Students	% of Students
All Students *=M +F +N/B enrolled on 6.26.2026*	2333		
Male		1441	61.8%
Female		885	37.9%
Non-Binary		7	0.3%
General Education Students		1249	53.5%
Students with Disabilities		1084	46.5%
Demographic data below represents any student enrolled and active for any number of school days during the 25.26 school year			
American Indian or Alaska Native		9	0.4%
Native Hawaiian/Othe r Pacific Islander		5	0.2%
Asian		53	2.3%
Black or African American		297	12.7%
Hispanic or Latino		127	5.4%
White		1967	84.3%
Multiracial		6	0.3%

	Total # of Referrals	# of Students documented	% of Students documented
All Students	70		
Male		36	51.4%
Female		34	48.6%
IEP Status-IEP		20	28.6%
No IEP		50	71.4%
Non-Binary		0	
American Indian or Alaska Native		0	
Native Hawaiian/Ot her Pacific Islander		0	
Asian		0	
Black or African American		17	24.3%
Hispanic or Latino		6	8.6%
White		41	58.6%
Multiracial		6	8.6%

4. Findings and Interpretation

Describe trends observed in the data, identify any disparities, discuss possible contributing factors, and explain how the district/BOCES will continue monitoring enforcement practices.

Observed Trends
The data indicates that most electronics-related referrals occur within the **classroom setting.** While referrals are spread throughout the school day, there is a notable concentration of incidents involving students in **Grades 11 and 12**, particularly within the **Education Center/CTE** (Career and Technical Education) programs.

The most common administrative response to this violation: *Documentation/Addressed in Classroom.*

Identified Disparities

- **Gender Disparity:** Although **females** make up only **38%** of the total enrollment, they account for **48%** of the electronics referrals. Conversely, **males** represent **63%** of the student population but only **51%** of the referrals.
- **Racial Disparity: Black or African American** students are disproportionately affected; they represent **13%** of the student body but receive **24%** of the total referrals.

5. Statistical Significance Determination

Was a statistically significant disparate impact identified?

x Yes ☐ No

6. Mitigation Action Plan (Complete Only if Required)

Area of Concern	Root Cause Analysis	Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible Party
Storage of personal devices	Inconsistent classroom expectations	Adopt & purchase storage for all classrooms in CTE	Summer 2026	Principals
Implicit bias training	Gender & racial disparities identified in the data	Training for leadership teams Training for teachers	Summer 2026 (Leadership teams) School year 2026-2027 (classroom teachers)	Principals
"Warning First" requirement	A formalized way to document classroom warnings is needed	Updated disciplinary code Education regarding policy requirements Education disciplinary coding	Summer 2026	Leadership team
Administrative audit of dispositions	Inconsistency	Data dive Training Follow-up and monitoring	Data dive & training Summer 2026 Follow up and monitoring 2026-2027 school year	Leadership team

Board/Administrative Certification

I certify that this report has been reviewed and published in accordance with the requirements of New York State Education Law regarding distraction-free schools policy enforcement reporting.

Administrator's Name/Title: Tom McNair, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Programs

Signature: Tom McNair Date: August 31, 2026