

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4882

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 17, 2024

Sponsored by:

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District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

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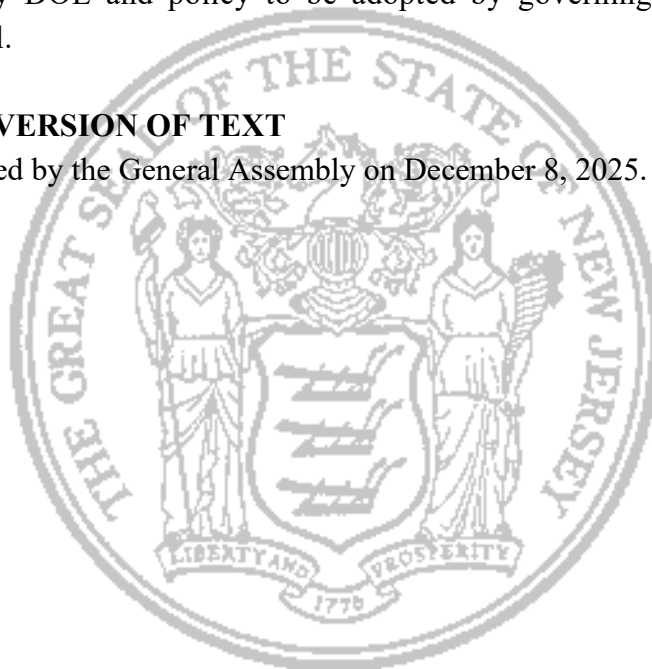
**Assemblywomen Dunn, Peterpaul, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen
Karabinchak, Bailey and Hutchison**

SYNOPSIS

Requires guidelines on student use of internet-enabled devices to be developed by DOE and policy to be adopted by governing body of each public school.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on December 8, 2025.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/22/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning student use of ²**[cell phones and social media**
 2 **platforms]** internet-enabled devices² and supplementing chapter
 3 36 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
 6 of New Jersey:

7
 8 ²1. As used in this act:

9 “Board of education” means a board of education as defined in
 10 N.J.S.18A:18A-2, a board of trustees of a charter school, and a
 11 board of trustees of a renaissance school project.

12 “Internet-enabled device” means a smartphone, tablet,
 13 smartwatch, or other device capable of connecting to the internet
 14 and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including
 15 social media applications. An internet-enabled device shall not
 16 include a non-internet-enabled device or an internet-enabled device
 17 provided by a public school when used for educational purposes.

18 “Non-internet-enabled device” means a cell phone or other
 19 communication device that is not capable of connecting to the
 20 internet or enabling the user to access content on the internet.

21 “Public school” means and includes a school, under college
 22 grade, which is operated by the governing body of a school district,
 23 charter school, or renaissance school project.²

24
 25 ²**[1.]** 2.² a. To assist ²**[school districts]** boards of education²
 26 in developing policies concerning student use of ²**[cell phones and**
 27 **social media platforms]** internet-enabled devices² during regular
 28 school hours, on a school bus, or during school-sanctioned events
 29 when the student is under the direct supervision of a teaching staff
 30 member or employee of the board of education, the Commissioner
 31 of Education shall develop ¹**[a policy]** guidelines¹ applicable to
 32 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12. The ¹**[policy]**
 33 guidelines¹ shall be issued no later than 90 days after the effective
 34 date of this act.

35 b. The ¹**[policy]** guidelines¹ shall, at a minimum:

36 (1) provide age appropriate and grade-level differentiated
 37 ¹**[policies]** guidelines¹ concerning limiting and prohibiting student
 38 use of ²**[cell phones and social media platforms]** internet-enabled
 39 devices²;

40 (2) prohibit non-academic use of ²**[a cell phone or social media**
 41 **during classroom instruction]** an internet-enabled device on school
 42 grounds during the school day²;

43 (3) be consistent with State and federal law, including
 44 accommodations provided in a student’s Individualized Education

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 10, 2025.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted December 8, 2025.

1 Program ¹**[or educational plan]** (IEP)¹ established pursuant to the
2 “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,” 20 U.S.C. s.1400 et
3 seq., ¹**[or]** educational plan established pursuant to¹ section 504 of
4 the “Rehabilitation Act of 1973,” 29 U.S.C. s.794 ¹, or student
5 health plan established to monitor or address a student’s health
6 condition¹;

7 (4) ¹**[permit]** address permitting¹ student use of cell phones in
8 the case of an emergency or in response to a perceived threat of
9 danger;

10 (5) ¹**[permit]** student use of cell phones upon submission by a
11 parent or guardian of documentation from a health care professional
12 indicating that the use of a cell phone is necessary for the health or
13 well-being of the student;

14 (6)¹ ²authorize student use of an internet-enabled device on
15 school grounds during the school day, or during school-sanctioned
16 events:

17 (a) if authorized by a principal, chief school administrator, or
18 their designee, for a necessary specified purpose, which shall be
19 authorized only when no reasonable alternative exists to achieve the
20 same objective while maintaining compliance with the guidelines
21 issued by the Commissioner of Education;

22 (b) if necessary for the provision and administration of a
23 student’s prescribed care consistent with the submission by a parent
24 or guardian of documentation from a health care professional;

25 (c) for translation services;

26 (d) on a case-by-case basis for a student caregiver who is
27 routinely responsible for the care or well-being of a family member,
28 upon approval from a principal, chief school administrator, or their
29 designees, which may include a school psychologist, school social
30 worker, or school counselor; and

31 (e) when required by law;

32 (6)² address ²**[smartphones,]** internet-enabled devices and² cell
33 phones with only text or voice²**[,** and other relevant devices,
34 including smart watches²];

35 ¹**[(7)]** ²**[(6)¹]** (7)² list options that may be utilized by a ²**[school**
36 **district]** board of education² for ²**[cell phone]**² storage ²of an
37 internet-enabled device², including locked pouches and ²**[cell**
38 **phone]**² lockers;

39 ¹**[(8)]** ²**[(7)¹]** (8)² provide guidance for a ²**[school district]**
40 board of education² to establish network-based restrictions to
41 prevent the use of, or access to, social media platforms; and

42 ¹**[(9)]** ²**[(8)¹]** (9)² detail protocols for communicating the
43 ²**[district’s]** board of education’s² policy concerning student use of
44 ²**[cell phones and social media platforms]** internet-enabled devices²
45 to students, their families, and teaching staff members.

1 c. The ¹**['policy] guidelines¹** shall promote student learning and
2 well-being. In developing the ¹**['policy] guidelines¹**, the
3 commissioner shall ¹**['involve] consult with interested¹** stakeholders
4 ¹**in the education community including, but not limited to, the New**
5 ¹**Jersey Education Association, the American Federation of**
6 ¹**Teachers, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New**
7 ¹**Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, and the New Jersey**
8 ¹**Association of School Administrators,¹** to ensure that the
9 ¹**['policies] guidelines¹** are responsive to the needs of students,
10 parents, and teaching staff members.

11 d. A board of education shall¹**['**, except as otherwise exempt
12 pursuant to subsection e. of this section,**']¹** adopt a policy
13 concerning student use of ²**['cell phones and social media**
14 **platforms] internet-enabled devices²** during regular school hours,
15 on a school bus, or during school-sanctioned events when the
16 student is under the direct supervision of a teaching staff member or
17 employee of the board of education. ²**The policy shall address the**
18 ²**use of internet-enabled devices in the event of an emergency**
19 ²**situation or in response to a perceived threat of danger.²** The policy
20 shall be consistent with the ¹**['policy] guidelines¹** developed
21 pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

22 e. ¹**['The commissioner may, upon submission of an application**
23 **to the commissioner in a manner and form to be determined by the**
24 **commissioner, exempt a board of education from the requirements**
25 **of subsection d. of this section.**

26 f.¹ Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a
27 ²**['school district] board of education²** from adopting a policy on the
28 use of ²**['cell phones and social media platforms] internet-enabled**
29 **devices²** by students enrolled in the ²**['district] public school²** that is
30 more stringent than the ¹**['policy] guidelines¹** developed by the
31 commissioner pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

32 ¹**f. The guidelines developed by the commissioner pursuant to**
33 ¹**subsection a. of this section shall not prohibit a principal ², chief**
34 ¹**school administrator,² or ²['a]² designee from making a reasonable**
35 ¹**accommodation for the use of ²['cell phones or social media**
36 ¹**platforms] internet-enabled devices² for educational purposes.¹**

37
38 ²**['2.] 3.²** This act shall take effect immediately and shall first
39 apply to the first full school year next following the date of
40 enactment.