



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 15, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Vice Principals, Educators
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Division of Educational Services

Release of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to share a new resource to support implementation of the [Guidelines for Schools on Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices](#) (Guidelines), previously released pursuant to [P.L. 2025, c.195](#).

The NJDOE has developed a set of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) to address common inquiries received from school districts, educators, and stakeholders following the release of the Guidelines. These FAQs are intended to provide additional clarification and practical guidance to support consistent understanding and local implementation. The underlying statutory requirements and the NJDOE's Guidelines remain unchanged. The FAQs were informed by ongoing input and collaboration with stakeholders responsible for implementing these policies, including district administrators, school leaders, and educators. This stakeholder engagement helped to ensure that the responses reflect real-world considerations and support effective and feasible implementation across diverse school settings.

As a reminder, beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, P.L. 2025, c.195 requires each board of education to adopt a bell-to-bell policy prohibiting student use of personal internet-enabled devices, such as cell phones, during the school day, with limited exceptions as outlined in the law and Guidelines. The NJDOE appreciates the continued partnership of local educational agencies in creating learning environments that foster student focus, well-being, and engagement.

Next Steps:

To further support districts, educators, and families, the NJDOE encourages review of its [Digital Well-Being](#) webpage, which houses:

- The full [Guidelines](#) and FAQs;
- Related resources and research; and
- A sample letter that school districts may use, as appropriate, to communicate with families about implementation of the new bell-to-bell policy.

Questions regarding the Guidelines or FAQs may be directed to PhoneFreeSchools@doe.nj.gov.