



## **Internet Enabled Devices Policy**

### **Objective**

This policy addresses Discovery Charter School's continuing and ongoing responsibility to adopt and implement appropriate procedures to protect and maintain the student body's health, welfare, and learning experience. This policy establishes that Discovery Charter School's standards are aligned with newly enacted New York State legislation for distraction-free schools by prohibiting unauthorized use of smartphones and other internet-enabled devices on school grounds in K-12 charter schools for the entire school day. By prohibiting the use of internet-enabled devices during the school day, this policy aims to provide a student environment that improves focus, engagement, and other collegiate or career skills.

### **Policy**

New York Education Law Section 2803(2) provides that "each school district, charter school, and board of cooperative educational services shall adopt a written policy prohibiting the use of internet-enabled devices by students during the school day anywhere on school grounds."

It is the policy of Discovery Charter School ("Discovery" or the "School") to prohibit the use of any internet-enabled device by students anywhere on Campus during the school day. This policy, however, does not prohibit access to cellular phones or other communication devices incapable of enabling access or connecting to the internet. In addition, internet-enabled devices officially provided by Discovery for classroom instructions or lesson plans are permitted.

### **Definitions**

In accordance with New York Education. Law Section 2803 and for the purpose of this policy:

- (a) "Internet-enabled devices" shall mean and include any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, iPod, or other device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including any social media applications.
- (b) "School day" shall mean the entirety of every instructional day during all instructional time and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.
- (c) "Campus" shall mean in, on, or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary of Discovery Charter School.

## **Storage**

Upon entering the School, students shall deposit any and all smartphones or other internet-enabled device(s) in a secure School provided storage device or pouch, or with a designated staff member at all times when internet-enabled device use is prohibited. Internet connected devices may be retrieved by students at the end of the school day, or such earlier time in the case of a student's early release from school. Discovery is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen internet-enabled devices.

## **Exceptions**

Students may be authorized to use internet-enabled devices when such use is prohibited if:

- A student has a medical condition that requires access to an internet-enabled device to manage the condition;
- A student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and/or a student's plan developed under section five hundred four of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794 requires access to an internet-enabled device;
- A student requires access for translation purposes;
- A teacher or administrator authorizes access for a specific educational purpose;
- On a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor, for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member;
- There is an emergency;
- Required by law.

## **Enforcement**

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator shall take the following disciplinary measures:

- Give the student a verbal warning and require the student to store the student's smartphone or other internet-enabled device in accordance with this policy.
- Place the student's smartphone or other internet-enabled device in the school's main office for the remainder of the school day.
- Place the student's smartphone or other internet-enabled device in the school's main office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.
- Schedule a conference with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the student's unauthorized internet-enabled device use and sign a behavioral agreement.

Under this policy and pursuant to New York State education law, a student shall not be suspended if the sole ground for suspension is the student's unauthorized access to an internet-enabled device in violation of this policy.

### **Communications**

For any family related communication, a student, family member, or guardian may use the following email address: \_\_\_\_\_ to contact school staff to send or receive messages. In addition, family members, guardians, and students may contact the main office or guidance office at any time during the school day at the following telephone no.: \_\_\_\_\_ to send or receive messages. Discovery Charter School will provide written notification to such persons in parental relation to a student of these communication methods at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment.

### **Review and Updates**

This policy will be reviewed periodically and updated as needed to remain effective, and in compliance with state law and regulations. In further accordance with Education Law Section 2803, an annual report will be posted on the Discovery Charter School's website detailing enforcement of this policy within the school. In addition, this policy will be communicated to students, parents, and administrators through Discovery Charter School's Handbook, , Family Communication folders, website, and announcements.