Hamburg Central School District
Administration Building
5305 Abbott Rd.
Hamburg, NY 14075-1699
Telephone: (716) 646-3200 FAX: (716) 646-3209

Annual Distraction-Free Schools Policy Enforcement Report

Reporting Year: 2025-2026
District/BOCES: Hamburg Central School District
Date Published: September 1 ,2026

1. Policy Overview

The District consulted with local stakeholders including employee organizations representing each bargaining unit, parents, and students to develop this policy to prohibit the use of Internet-enabled devices by students during the school day on school grounds. This policy aims to ensure that students remain focused on their academic responsibilities throughout the school day, which includes all instructional and non-instructional periods such as homeroom, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

a) "Internet-enabled devices" means and includes any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, or other device capable of connecting to the Internet and enabling the user to access content on the Internet, including social media applications;

"Internet-enabled devices" does not include:

1. Non-Internet-enabled devices such as cellular phones or other communication devices not capable of connecting to the Internet or enabling the user to access content on the Internet; or

2. Internet-enabled devices supplied by the District, charter school, or Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) that are used for an educational purpose.

b) "School day" means the entirety of every instructional day as required by subdivision 7 of the Education Law Section 3604 during all instructional time and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.

c) "School grounds" means in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a district elementary, intermediate, junior high, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a BOCES facility.

Students are generally prohibited from using Internet-enabled devices during the school day anywhere on school grounds.

However, students may be authorized to use an Internet-enabled device during the school day on school grounds:

a) If authorized by a teacher, principal, or the District for a specific educational purpose;

b) Where necessary for the management of a student's health care;

c) In the event of an emergency;

d) For translation services;

Hamburg Central School District
Administration Building
5305 Abbott Rd.
Hamburg, NY 14075-1699
Telephone: (716) 646-3200 FAX: (716) 646-3209

e) 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 well-being of a family member; or

f) Where required by law.

Students must be permitted to use an Internet-enabled device where the use is included in the student's:

a) Individualized Education Program (IEP); or

b) Section 504 Plan.

On-Site Storage of Internet-Enabled Devices Including Cell Phones

Students must store their Internet-enabled devices in designated on-site storage areas during the school day. On-site storage areas may include, but are not limited to, student lockers (middle and high school), cubbies (elementary) or other areas as may be specified by administration. The designated on-site storage areas must be easily accessible to students and provide adequate security to ensure the safekeeping of the student's devices. The District will communicate the procedures for storing and retrieving devices, ensuring that students understand their responsibilities in using the on-site storage facilities provided.

Methods for Parents to Contact Students During the School Day

To accommodate necessary communication, parents or persons in parental relation may use the following methods to contact their student during school hours while adhering to this policy:

a) Designated Contact Email: Schools may provide a designated email address for parents and persons in parental relation to send messages. These emails may be monitored by school staff who can then pass the messages on to the students.

School Office Phone: Parents or persons in parental relation may call the school's main office, and the office staff can relay messages to the student or call the student to the office to speak with their parent or person in parental relation.

a) Classroom Phone System: In case of an emergency, the school's main office can contact the classroom phone system to notify students directly or ask them to come to the office.

Contact information for district schools can be found here.

Parents and persons in parental relation will be notified in writing of the methods that are available for contacting their student during school hours upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year.

Hamburg Central School District
Administration Building
5305 Abbott Rd.
Hamburg, NY 14075-1699
Telephone: (716) 646-3200 FAX: (716) 646-3209

Student Discipline for Accessing Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day

The District is prohibited from suspending a student solely for accessing internet-enabled devices in violation of this policy. Students who fail to comply with the device storage requirements or usage expectations may be subject to discipline consequences as outline in the Code of Conduct, however, in accordance with Education Law 2803, students shall not be suspended solely for unauthorized use of personal internet-enabled devices.

Liability

The district will not be liable for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of any personal internet-enabled devices brought to school. The district reserves the right to monitor, inspect, and/or confiscate personal internet-enabled devices when administration has reasonable suspicion to believe that a violation of the school policy or criminal law has occurred.

Posting and Translation of Policy

The District will post this policy in a clearly visible and accessible location on its website. Translations of the policy into the 12 most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in the state will be provided upon request by a student or other persons in parental relation to a student.

Education Law Section 2803

2. Enforcement Summary

Measure	Number
Total Student Enrollment	3288
Students Receiving at Least One Violation	309
Total Violations Recorded	591
Verbal Warnings	101
Device Confiscations	22
Parent Notifications	92
Detentions	12
Other Disciplinary Actions	4

Hamburg Central School District
Administration Building
5305 Abbott Rd.
Hamburg, NY 14075-1699
Telephone: (716) 646-3200 FAX: (716) 646-3209

3. Demographic Analysis

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

Demographic Group	Enrollment %	Students Disciplined %	Difference
Female	49.15	6.75	42.4
Male	50.85	11.96	38.89
Students with Disabilities	19.13	7.47	11.66
Economically Disadvantaged	21.72	18.63	3.09
English Language Learners	.07	13.04	-12.34
White	92.97	9.32	83.65
Black/African American	1.7	8.93	-7.23
Hispanic/Latino	5.11	7.74	-2.63
Asian	.97	6.25	-5.28
Multiracial	3.32	10.06	-6.77
Other	1.03	17.65	-16.62

4. Findings and Interpretation

- Students engaged in more face-to-face interactions during lunch periods and study halls, resulting in increased socialization and peer engagement.
- Males represent 50.85% of enrollment but 11.96% of students disciplined, compared with females at 49.15% of enrollment and 6.75% of students disciplined. This indicates that males are disciplined at a higher proportion than females.
- Students with disabilities comprise 19.13% of enrollment but 7.47% of students are disciplined. Although they are not overrepresented in the disciplinary data, the difference of 11.66 percentage points warrants continued monitoring to ensure disciplinary practices are equitable and consistent.
- Although overall compliance was high, administrators believe a small number of students continued to access personal devices during the instructional day in locations where monitoring is inherently difficult, such as private restroom stalls. Staff will continue to reinforce expectations and monitor implementation to promote consistent compliance.

Hamburg Central School District
Administration Building
5305 Abbott Rd.
Hamburg, NY 14075-1699
Telephone: (716) 646-3200 FAX: (716) 646-3209

5. Statistical Significance Determination

Was a statistically significant disparate impact identified?

☐ Yes X No

6. Mitigation Action Plan

Hamburg Central School District continues to monitor disciplinary practices by reviewing discipline data disaggregated by demographic group, school, grade level, type of infraction, consequence, and referral source. Administrators examine patterns in referrals and consequences to identify potential inconsistencies and determine whether additional support is needed.

Hamburg Central School District reviews individual disciplinary incidents when appropriate, monitor trends over time, and provides staff with guidance on culturally responsive practices, behavioral interventions, and consistent application of the student code of conduct. Ongoing data reviews will help determine whether interventions are reducing disproportionality and whether enforcement practices are being applied consistently, fairly, and in accordance with Hamburg Central School District policies.

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 Name/Title: Mr. Thomas Adams, Superintendent of Schools

Signature: _____

Date: August 31, 2026