



The Alexander Graham Bell School

P.S. 205Q

75-25 Bell Blvd. Bayside N.Y. 11364

718-464-5773

"Making a Difference....One Child at a Time"

Jennifer Wynne, Principal

PS 205 Bell-to-Bell Electronic Device Policy

[Chancellor's Regulation A-413](#)

[Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy FAQ page.](#)

Effective: September 4, 2025

Grades K–5

In alignment with the **New York City Public Schools' (NYCPS)** citywide initiative and **state law** to promote safe, respectful, and distraction-free learning environments, **PS 205 will implement a bell-to-bell ban on student use of personal internet-enabled electronic devices during the instructional day**, beginning September 4, 2025.

This policy complies with **Chancellor's Regulation A-413** and relevant state guidance.

Policy Overview

All **personal internet-enabled electronic devices**—including, but not limited to:

- **Cell phones**
- **Smartwatches**
- **Tablets**
- **Headphones**
- **Gaming devices**

...must be **powered off, out of sight**, and **secured** for the entire instructional day, including:

- Transitions
- Lunch
- Recess

Instructional Hours

8:00 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

This policy is in effect **from the first bell (8:00 a.m.) until dismissal (2:20 p.m.)**

Collection & Storage Procedures

Grades K–5

- Upon arrival, students must **power off devices** and **place them in a school-issued pouch**.
- The pouch is placed **inside the student's backpack**, which is **secured in a classroom storage closet**.
- Devices are not to be accessed until dismissal.

End-of-Day Device Return

- Devices will **remain in the secured backpack** until students are dismissed at 2:20 p.m.
- Students may only access their devices **after exiting the building**.
- Any device removed or used prior to dismissal may be subject to disciplinary action.

Early Dismissal Procedures

- Students with an **approved early dismissal** must collect their secured backpack (containing their device in a pouch) **from the classroom or main office**, depending on the time of departure.
- Early dismissals must be **documented by the office**, and staff will supervise the retrieval of the backpack/device.

Exceptions to the Policy

The following are **examples of permitted exceptions**, evaluated on a case-by-case basis:

1. **Medical Needs** – E.g., blood sugar monitors, seizure alert devices.
2. **Disability Accommodations** – As outlined in an IEP or 504 Plan.

To request an exception, families must:

- **Submit documentation to the principal**
- **Allow up to 5 school days for a response**

Discipline for Policy Violations

PS 205 follows a **progressive discipline** approach, consistent with the NYCPS **Discipline Code**.

Violation	Response
First Incident	Verbal reminder; device held until end of day
Second Incident	Parent/guardian notified; device held in main office
Repeated Incidents	Parent conference required; student may lose privilege to bring device
Willful Defiance / Repeated Noncompliance	Classified as insubordination and will result in disciplinary referral

Key Distinction:

- Accidental or minor misuse = **disciplinary reminder/consequence**

- **Repeated, willful noncompliance** or refusal to follow staff instructions = **insubordination**

Stolen or Damaged Devices

- Students must report stolen or damaged devices to a **staff member immediately**.
- The school will:
 - Assist in internal investigations
 - Refer unresolved cases to the **comptroller** for recordkeeping, claims, and potential financial recovery
- A **police report** may be required for theft claims
- The school is **not liable** for personal devices brought to campus
- Financial responsibility for repair/replacement may fall to the student/guardian in cases of **negligence or intentional damage**

Family Partnership and Communication

- Please **do not call or text your child directly** during the instructional day.
- In case of emergencies, call the **main office: (718) 464-5773**
- Students needing to contact home may use a **school phone**, coordinated by their teacher or main office staff.

Automated Alerts

PS 205 uses **GAMA** for urgent communications and school updates. Families can access GAMA via the **NYC Schools Account (NYCSA)**. For help, visit: www.schools.nyc.gov/nycsa

Community Involvement

This policy was developed with input from:

- The **School Leadership Team (SLT)**
- **PTA leadership**

Further community feedback will be reviewed and used to update the policy as needed.


Policy Dissemination

- The final version will be posted on the **PS 205 school website**
- A hard copy will be sent home with every student during the **first week of school**
- Staff will **review the policy with students** in the opening days of the school year

Questions?

Contact: **Principal Wynne**

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 (718) 464-5773