Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, [**in accordance with New York State law,(Open external link)**](https://www.ny.gov/programs/distraction-free-schools-implementation-resources) New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) is updating its policy regarding the use of internet-enabled electronic devices—including cell phones—in school. This change supports the [**State's intent to create distraction-free schools(Open external link)**](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/Cell-Phone-Ban-Overview_Findings_Recommendations.pdf) and aims to ensure safe and focused learning environments across all NYCPS schools.

Students are permitted to bring their devices to school, but they must be stored during the school day. Schools will not be able to make students store their devices at the start of each class period, as the regulation requires these devices to be stored throughout the entirety of the school day.

Schools will provide storage methods for students to store their devices during the school day. This may include school-assigned personal or shared lockers, individual cell phone pouches, or another secure storage system. Teachers will not be required to hold or distribute devices in the classroom. Please check with your child’s school for specific storage details.

Backpacks alone are not considered a sufficient storage option, unless they are kept in a closet or cubby that cannot be accessed by students without permission or if the devices themselves are stored inside of a special storage pouch that can be placed inside a backpack.

