

# **Lamad Academy Distraction Free School Policy**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of Lamad Academy Charter School Middle School's Electronic Device Policy is to align with New York State Education Law § 2803, which mandates a distraction-free learning environment by restricting the use of internet-enabled devices during the instructional day. This policy is designed to minimize disruptions, protect instructional time, and promote academic engagement and social-emotional well-being among scholars. By establishing clear expectations for the use, storage, and management of personal electronic devices, Lamad Academy ensures that all scholars can learn in a safe, focused, and equitable environment. The policy reflects our commitment to upholding state law, fostering responsible digital habits, and maintaining a culture of excellence and respect.

## **Mandatory “Bell-to-Bell” Device Ban**

- Scholars may not use personal internet-enabled devices (smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, earbuds with connectivity) any time during the school day, from arrival until dismissal—even during lunch, recess, passing time, and study hall.
- Non-internet devices like basic cell phones (voice/text only) are permitted but must remain off and stored in lockers or lock boxes.

## **On-Site Storage**

- Scholars must store devices on school property, using lockers, Yondr pouches, or central lockboxes provided by LACS.
- Backpacks are not permitted for device storage under state regulations.

## **Permitted Exceptions**

The policy must allow device use in these cases below.

- Instructional use authorized by a teacher or principal
- Healthcare-related use (e.g. glucose monitors)
- Emergency situations

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- Translation or communication services
- IEP or Section 504 accommodations
- Responsibilities tied to family caregiving (authorized by social worker/psychologist)

### **Parental Contact Protocol**

- Scholars must remain accessible. Parents contact the main office, which will relay messages via school staff.
- Protocols explaining these methods must be announced each year at the start and upon enrollment.

### **Equity & Discipline**

- Scholars cannot be suspended solely for violating the device policy.
- Each year on the school's website, the school will publish:
  - Demographic data on device-policy disciplinary actions
  - Analysis of any disparities and a mitigation plan if needed.

### **Enforcement & Reporting**

- All staff are expected to help enforce this policy, with support from administrators.
- Disciplinary responses include warnings, device confiscation until end of day, communication with guardians, and restorative planning—not automatic suspension.
- The annual enforcement report must be publicly available by September 1, 2026, and every year on the school website