



**Mrs. Traci Ferreira, Superintendent of Schools**

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June 2, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On May 6, 2025, Governor Hochul passed the state-wide ban on cell phones in all public schools. This ban will take effect on August 1, 2025. The "WHY" for a distraction free school environment: improving academic performance, enhancing student mental health, and creating a better school and classroom environment. Since 2020, educational research has shown that cell phone use in the classroom is a distraction, which makes it challenging for students to focus on learning. Excessive cell phone use has been connected to increased anxiety and stress among students. There are indicators that suggest the pressures of constant connectivity and social media can lead to mental health issues.

Starting August 1, 2025, the Eldred Central School District, in accordance with the new law, will implement a written policy prohibiting the use of internet-enabled devices, such as smartphones, tablets, and smartwatches, by students during the school day, including during all instructional and non-instructional time (e.g., homeroom, lunch, recess, study hall, passing time, etc.). Students will continue being allowed to use their district issued Chromebooks during the school day.

We understand that you may need to contact your child during the school day. The new policy will include methods for parents/persons in parental relation to contact students during school hours. We will provide written notification of these methods at the beginning of the school year. Additionally, the policy will outline methods for on-site storage where students may keep their devices during the school day.

Please note that there are specific circumstances where the use of internet-enabled devices may be authorized:

- If authorized by a teacher, principal, or the school district for a specific educational purpose.
- Where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare.
- For translation services.
- Where required by law.

We will be consulting with local stakeholders, including employee organizations, parents, and students, in the development of this policy prior to its adoption. Once adopted, the policy will be posted in a clearly visible and accessible location on the school district's website. I will be setting up virtual meetings in the months of June and July for parents to have a voice in the implementation of our cell phone ban. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please email me at [ferreirat@eldred.k12.ny.us](mailto:ferreirat@eldred.k12.ny.us).

We appreciate your cooperation as we implement this new state-mandated policy to create an optimal learning environment for all students.

Sincerely,

Traci Ferreira, Superintendent of Schools



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