



# FRONTIER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FRONTIER EDUCATIONAL CENTER

5120 ORCHARD AVENUE

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Telephone: (716) 926-1711 Fax: (716) 926-1778

*Christopher J. Swiatek*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

*Shannon Cross*  
*District Clerk*

## **Administrative Guidelines on Cell Phone/Digital Device Use for Grades UPK-8**

**Introduction:** The Frontier Central School District is officially announcing the implementation of new "no cell phone/digital device" guidelines for grades UPK-8.

- **Digital Device:** A "Digital Device" is defined as any two-way wireless communication device or any other device capable of storing, playing, transmitting, or receiving images, data, text, video, audio files, and/or games, including, but not limited to, tablets, smart watches, cell phones, smart phones, e-readers, headphones, handheld video game devices, etc., and similar devices other than District-issued devices for instructional purposes.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the guidelines is to create an optimal learning environment for all students, to ensure digital device use at school does not disrupt the educational environment, and to protect students' privacy and well-being.

**Scope:** These guidelines apply to all Frontier students in grades UPK-8

**Effective Dates:** The guidelines will be effective beginning May 7th, 2025 through the end of the 2024-25 school year.

### **Guidelines:**

#### **1. General Digital Device Use:**

- a. Students are not permitted to use digital devices during instructional hours.
- b. Appropriate use of digital devices will be allowed while traveling on District transportation.
- c. It is expected that all students will adhere to the new digital device use rules. All students will be allowed to enter the buildings with their digital device, and at the start of the instructional day place them in their locker or the school's designated area for safekeeping.



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## 2. Exceptions and Emergency Use:

- a. Students who utilize a digital device to monitor a documented medical need.
  - i. A note from a licensed physician will be required to be on file with the building's medical staff.
- b. If a student needs to contact a parent or guardian during school hours, they should go to the school office to make a call. School staff will assist with communications in the main office only.
- c. Students should not use digital devices during emergency/fire drills.

## 3. Disciplinary Consequences:

- a. Violation of the digital device guidelines will result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to:
  - i. First Violation: Students will be asked to place their digital device into a secure pouch to store in their locker for grades 6-8 or a designated space for grades UPK-5 for the remainder of the school day.
  - ii. Second Violation: Students will place their digital device in a storage pouch, and it will be secured in the main office of their participating school. At the end of the instructional day, the device will be returned to the student. This process will remain in place until the end of the school year.
  - iii. Any further violation of the digital device guidelines will result in student progressive disciplinary action to include detention and/or suspension for insubordination. Digital devices will not be returned to the student directly. Devices will only be returned to a parent/guardian.

## 4. Parent/Guardian Responsibility:

- a. Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss the appropriate use of digital devices with their children and remind them of the school's guidelines.
- b. The school encourages open communication between parents and staff regarding any concerns related to digital device usage.
- c. Frontier UPK-8 families will be made aware of the implementation of the new digital device guidelines via District email and text messaging. The guidelines will also be posted on the school's website and in the Falcon Update.

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## 5. Review and Amendment:

- a. The guidelines will be reviewed at the end of the 2024-25 school year and updated as needed to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the school community. The District will continue to solicit information and input from the school community as we progress through this transitional period.
- b. Frontier Central School has developed a Parent Resource Page to help support and understand the purpose of these new guidelines. Within the site, you will find current research regarding the impact and importance of the need for increased guidelines and guidelines restricting digital devices during the instructional day.
- c. All Districts across New York State are expecting regulatory guidelines from Governor Hochul regarding digital device use at schools, including grades 9-12, by July 1, 2025. Upon review of best practices and continued conversations over the summer months, the District will outline universal digital device guidelines for grades UPK-12 next school year.

### Approved by:

Christopher Swiatek, Superintendent of Schools

April 30, 2025