North Collins Jr.-Sr. High School

Distraction-Free School Zone Policy (2025–2026)

Cell Phone & Internet-Enabled Device Expectations

Why This Policy?

Starting in the 2025–2026 school year, **New York State Education Law 2803(2)** requires all schools to **prohibit student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day** on school grounds. This law was designed to reduce distractions and support student learning and engagement.

What Devices Are Included?

Personal internet-enabled devices are prohibited during the school day, including:

- Smartphones
- Smartwatches
- Tablets, iPads
- Laptops
- Gaming devices
- Bluetooth accessories
- VR headsets, iPods, MP3 players

Not included:

- School-issued learning devices
- Non-internet-connected devices
- Devices approved for specific student needs (see exemptions below)

When and Where Does This Apply?

School Day:
From the moment students enter the building until they leave — including homeroom, classes, lunch, recess, study halls, and hallway time.

School Grounds:
All areas of campus: classrooms, hallways, gym, fields, and parking lots.

Student Expectations

- **Grades 7–12:** Phones and internet-enabled devices must be **turned off and stored in lockers** during the entire school day.
- Students are expected to secure their individual lockers.
- Vocational students will be allowed to transport their phones to and from their vocational school, but will need to secure them in accordance with the requirements communicated by each building.

Communication During the Day

- Students may use **designated office phones** for urgent communication.
- Parents may contact students via the **main office or guidance office** during the day. (716-337-0101)
- Email communication for messages can be sent to our **main office (dfrew@northcollinscsd.org)**.

Exemptions (with documentation)

Students may use a personal device **if documented** for:

- **Medical purposes** (e.g., diabetic monitoring)
- **IEP or 504 Plans**
- **Legal requirements**
- **Caregiver responsibilities**, as verified by school support staff

All exemptions will be noted in PowerSchool.

Consequences for Violations

Offense	Action
1st	Device taken, warning issued, parent notified, returned to student at day's end
2nd	Device taken, warning issued, returned to parent/guardian at day's end
3rd	Device must be turned into the office each day for the remainder of the year
Other	Cell phone related misconduct such as refusal to surrender, insubordination, providing "burner" phones for confiscation, etc.. will be treated using the existing code of conduct and may lead to consequences up to and including suspensions.

Offense	Action

What Parents/Guardians Can Do

- Talk with your student about the importance of being focused and device-free.
- Support the school by helping students adjust to the new expectations.
- Contact school staff with any questions or concerns.

Implementation

North Collins Jr.-Sr. High School will:

- Identify locations for student use of school phones.
- Train staff on handling violations consistently.
- Communicate this plan clearly to students, staff, and families before the school year begins.

Next Steps

To be in compliance with this new law, this plan will be added to the **District Code of Conduct** following Board approval. We'll provide multiple communication updates over the summer to help everyone prepare for this shift.