



Smart Phone/ Cell Phone Policy

Nuasin Next Generation Charter School

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Purpose

In May 2025, a new law [linked here](#) was enacted that prohibits scholars from using non-school issued internet-enabled devices during the school day while on school grounds. The law applies to all school districts, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, and charter schools, including schools. This policy was developed in consultation with school stakeholders, including school leadership and staff, parents and scholars.

At Nuasin, cell phones are strictly prohibited on all school property unless there is approved written consent from NNGCS administration. Cell phones must be powered off during the entire school day, and scholars are not permitted to receive or make calls or use text messaging on their devices during school hours. This includes smart watches and AirPods.

The distraction fee for cell phone usage is designed to minimize non-academic distractions during the school day and promote a focused, respectful learning environment. Unauthorized or excessive use of personal devices during instructional time can interfere with student engagement, classroom culture, and overall academic performance.

This policy supports **Nuasin's mission** to cultivate a rigorous, community college-preparatory education in a structured and empowering environment. By holding students accountable for maintaining focus and minimizing disruptions, we uphold high expectations and ensure that all scholars are able to maximize their learning potential.



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The distraction fee serves not as a punitive measure, but as a reinforcement of our shared values: personal responsibility, academic excellence, and a community where learning comes first.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- **Internet-enabled device(s):** smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, Mac Books, personal computers or other devices capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the use to access content on the internet, including social media applications, including, without limitation, computing devices such as laptops, iPad and tablets; portable music and entertainment devices such as iPod and gaming consoles.
- **Non-internet enabled device(s):** cellular phone or other communication device not capable of connecting to the internet or enabling the scholar to access the internet.
- **Parent:** a scholar's parent(s) or guardian(s) or person(s) in any parental or custodial relationship to the scholar, or any individual designated by the parent to act in loco parentis.
- **School Day:** The entirety of the instructional day (including all non-instructional time during the school day such as homeroom period, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time).
- **School Grounds:** All building structures, athletic playing fields, playgrounds or land contained within the real property boundary line of the school.

Scholars shall not use internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds unless such use is subject to an exception set forth in this policy. This policy does not preclude the use of (i) non-internet-enabled devices; or (ii) internet-enabled devices supplied by the school for educational services that are used for an educational purpose.

Exceptions

Scholars who need access to Electronic Devices for medical reasons will be exempt from school cell phone policies only to the extent necessary to meet their medical needs, as certified in writing by a New York State licensed healthcare provider and consistent with guidelines from the Office of School Health.

A parent may make a request under one of the above exceptions to the Building Principal. Any healthcare related exception must also include documentation from a healthcare professional affirming such need.

1. If authorized by a teacher, principal or school for a specific educational purpose;
Where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare;
2. In the event of an emergency;
3. For translation services;



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4. On a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker or school counselor, for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and wellbeing of a family member;
5. Where required by law.

Students must be permitted to use an internet-enabled device where the use is documented on an: a) Individualized Education Program (IEP); or b) Section 504 Plan.

Postsecondary Meetings in the High School

In specific circumstances, scholars who are meeting with Director of College Readiness may need in-school access to an internet-enabled personal device in order to complete tasks necessary for postsecondary matriculation (e.g. using two-factor authentication to access FAFSA forms, contacting admissions representatives via text messaging, etc.).

In these instances, the Director of College Readiness will bear sole responsibility for obtaining scholar's personal device and monitoring its usage for postsecondary-related tasks only. Upon conclusion of these tasks, the Director of College Readiness will return the cell phone to its on-site storage location.

Storage

On-Site Storage of Internet-Enabled Devices Including Cell Phones

Scholars must store their Internet-enabled devices in designated on-site storage areas during the school day. On-site storage areas may include, but are not limited to,

- **Grades K-4**, Phones, tablets **and** smart watches will be collected from teachers and stored in cell phone pouches in classrooms. Cell Phones will be distributed at the end of day by classroom teachers before dismissal.
- **Grades 5- 8** Phones, tablets **and** smart watches will be collected in the designated hallway and stored in cell phone lock boxes in leaders' offices. Devices will be distributed at the end of day by classroom teachers during homeroom.
- **Grades 9-12** Phones will be collected upon entry on the 1st floor during arrival by members of administration. Cell phones will be stored in lock boxes until the end of day. Phones will be distributed at the end of day by leadership upon dismissal.

Principals will communicate the procedures for storing and retrieving devices, ensuring that scholars understand their responsibilities in using the on-site storage facilities provided.



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Methods for Parents to Contact Scholars

To accommodate necessary communication from parents, parents may use the following methods to contact their scholar during school hours while adhering to this policy:

Parents can contact Nuasin Next Generation Charter School at

- **180 West 165th Street (K-8) can be reached at 718-893-0640**
- **1366 Cromwell Avenue (9-12) can be reached at 929-201-9030**

Scholar Accountability for Accessing Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day

Nuasin will not suspend a scholar solely for accessing internet-enabled devices in violation of this policy.

- **1st Infraction:** Warning given to scholars.
- **2nd Infraction:** The cell phone will be held until the scholar comes to retrieve it from an administrator at the end of the day. The scholar will also sign out their phone upon retrieval, acknowledging their phone was confiscated and returned.
- **3rd Infraction:** Confiscated and returned to a parent/guardian only.
- **4th Infraction and beyond:** Confiscated and returned to parent/guardian. A restorative conference takes place among the scholar, family, school culture staff, administration, any additional appropriate staff or scholars.

Some uses of internet-enabled devices will constitute a separate violation of the Code of Conduct, other School policies, or in some the most serious cases, the law. Nuasin will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Security of Devices

Nuasin will exercise reasonable care to maintain the security of devices that are held by the School but cannot guarantee the devices will be secure. Nuasin shall not be responsible for any personal device that is lost, stolen or damaged during the School Day or at school-sponsored activities. Any lost, stolen or damaged personal device should be reported immediately to the Principal.

Posting and Translation of Policy

As required by law, this policy will be available in a clearly visible and accessible location on Nuasin's website. Translations of the policy into the 12 most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in the state will be provided upon request by a scholar or parent.



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Reporting and Mitigation Action Plan

Beginning September 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, Nuasin will publish an annual report on its website detailing enforcement of this policy during the prior school year. This report will include non-identifiable demographic data of scholars who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance and analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement of this policy. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, the report will include a mitigation action plan.

This policy may be reviewed, updated, or amended as necessary at the discretion of school leadership and/or the Board of Trustees to ensure alignment with applicable laws, evolving school needs, and best practices.

Adoption Date: 07.29.2025