



LOWER TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY
LEARNING TEACHING EXPLORING SUCCEEDING

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Dear LTES Families,

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, I would like to share an important update regarding New Jersey's new law governing student use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day. In January 2026, Governor Phil Murphy signed P.L. 2025, c.195, requiring all New Jersey public school districts to adopt policies restricting student use of personal internet-enabled devices. The New Jersey Department of Education has established a "bell-to-bell" expectation, meaning these devices may not be used by students during the school day.

For Lower Township Elementary School District families, very little will change. For many years, LTES has maintained a policy prohibiting students from bringing, possessing, or using personal electronic communication and recording devices on school grounds or on school buses. Our updated policy will continue these expectations while using the State's new terminology, "personal internet-enabled devices." These devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones and smartphones
- Smartwatches
- Tablets
- Smart glasses
- Other personal devices capable of accessing the internet or electronic communications

Students should continue to leave these devices at home. Personal internet-enabled devices are not permitted on school grounds or on the school bus. District issued technology, including Chromebooks and other devices used for educational purposes, is not affected by this policy.

As required by law, exceptions will continue to be made when necessary for a student's IEP, Section 504 Plan, documented medical or health need, translation services, or other circumstances authorized or required by law.

We understand that families occasionally need to communicate with their children during the school day. If you need to reach your child, please contact your school's main office, and our staff will ensure that important messages are delivered promptly. Likewise, if a student needs to contact a parent or caregiver, school personnel will assist them.

While the terminology and State requirements are new, the expectations for LTES students remain largely unchanged. Our longstanding approach has helped us maintain classrooms and schools where students can focus on learning, interact with their peers, and engage with their teachers without the distractions created by personal electronic devices.

We appreciate your continued partnership and support. If you have questions regarding the District's policy or procedures, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Van Cathcart
Superintendent
Lower Township Elementary School District