Department of Education

Carmen Fariña
Chancellor

PUBLIC NOTICE
January 8, 2015

CHANCELLOR'S REGULATION A-413
USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration

Chancellor's Regulation A-413 is a new regulation. It governs the use of cell phones, computing devices and portable music and entertainment systems on school property.

The regulation provides as follows:

- Students are permitted to bring the following electronic items to school: cell phones, laptops, tablets, iPads, and other similar computing devices ("computing devices"), and portable music and entertainment systems.
- Each principal must establish a written school-based policy regarding the use of such electronic items that is consistent with the regulation, and must consult with the School Leadership Team.
- School-based policies must set forth the circumstances under which cell phones, computing devices and portable music and entertainment systems may be used on school property and must set forth procedures for confiscation and return of such items.
- For schools located on a campus, the Building Council must establish a policy for use of such items in shared spaces.
- Cell phones, computing devices and portable music and entertainment systems may not be turned on or used during fire drills or other emergency preparedness exercises.
- Cell phones and portable music and entertainment systems may not be turned on or used during the administration of any school quiz, test or examination.
- Computing devices may not be turned on or used during the administration of any school quiz, test or examination, except as authorized by the school, or pursuant to an Individualized Education Plan or a Section 504 accommodation plan.
- Cell phones, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems may not be used in locker rooms or bathrooms.
- School-based policies must be adopted for the 2014-2015 school year by March 2, 2015, and annually thereafter by October 31st.
- Until a school-based policy is adopted for the 2014-2015 school year, schools must institute one of the following interim policies and must communicate them to students, parents and staff: 1. Students may bring cell phones, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems to school, but they may not be turned on or used at

school; or 2. Students may bring cell phones to school, but they will be collected by the school upon entry to the school building and stored in a designated location until the end of the school day. Students may bring computing devices and portable music and entertainment systems to school, but they may not be turned on or used at school.

- Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, schools must certify by October 31st in their Consolidated School and Youth Development Plans that they have adopted a policy regarding the use of cell phones, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems and that they have communicated the policy to students, parents, and staff.
- Each school must provide annual written notification of this regulation and its school policy to students, parents and staff by October 31st. For the 2014-2015 school year only, such notification must be provided within 30 days of adoption of the school's policy.
- Each school must conduct an annual orientation for school staff and students on this regulation and the school's policy by October 31st. For the 2014-2015 school year only, such orientation must take place within 30 days of the adoption of the school's policy.
- Each school must post a notice of its policy on the school's website.
- Students who use cell phones, computing devices or portable music and entertainment systems in violation of the DOE's Discipline Code, the school's policy, this regulation, and/or the DOE's Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy will be subject to discipline in accordance with the guidance interventions and disciplinary responses set forth in the Discipline Code.
- If a school confiscates a cell phone, computing device, or portable music or entertainment system for violation of the DOE's Discipline Code, the school's policy, this regulation, and/or the Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy, the principal/designee must contact the student's parent. Confiscation and return of such items must be handled in accordance with the school's policy.
- The Chancellor may waive portions or all of the regulation if the Chancellor determines it to be in the best interests of the school system.

II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained

The full text of the regulation, and the regulation in its entirety, can be found on the main page of the website of the Panel for Educational Policy: http://schools.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2014-2015/February2015Regulations

III. Name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable about the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item

Name: Kristina Hardial

Office: Office of Safety and Youth Development

Address: 52 Chambers Street, Room 218, New York, NY 10007

Email: RegulationA-413@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-346-5212

IV. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item

February 25, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
The Michael J. Petrides School
715 Ocean Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301