School District of Newberry County
Internet Shut Off Times for Student Devices
Frequently Asked Questions

Who made the decision to restrict internet access on district-owned devices at certain times after the normal school day?
The SDNC 1:1 Committee, composed of teachers, administrators, media specialists, and district staff, researched this issue and recommended that this practice be considered in the upcoming school year. It was discussed with principals and consensus was reached.

Why was it made?
This decision was made in the best interest of students. Research clearly shows that too much screen time can negatively affect our health. It is imperative to create a healthy balance between time spent using digital devices and screen-free activities which can be difficult for even adults to do, nevertheless children and teens. It is important to combat the adverse effects of screen time by balancing it with screen-free activities outside of the classroom and home.

Exposure to light suppresses the secretion of melatonin, a hormone that influences circadian rhythms. Even dim light can interfere with a person's circadian rhythm and melatonin secretion. In order to promote healthy sleep habits, we should avoid looking at bright screens beginning two to three hours before bed (https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/blue-light-has-a-dark-side).

Because we are providing the device, it is important that we do so with healthy boundaries.

What if my student has homework that requires internet access?
Students should download any necessary assignments that require internet access prior to the shut-off time.

Can my student access programs that do not require internet access such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, or Google Drive Documents?
Yes, any program or application that does not require internet use will still be available. All of these applications, including Google Drive, can be accessed offline.

What if my student has after school activities, sports, or work, that prevents them from completing school work until after the internet shut-off times.
Students should download any necessary assignments that require internet access prior to the shut-off time. They can even do this prior to leaving school for the day. Students who have personal devices can still access the internet, too. It is important to remember that everyone in our district does not have home internet access; therefore, assignments should require little reliance on internet use after school hours.

What if my student uses a personal smartphone, home computer or laptop? Will this affect that access?
No, any personal devices, computers, laptops, or tablets will not be affected by the district's internet shut-off times.

What if I have internet access at my home that my student's device connects to? Will the school-issued device's internet work through that internet after the shut-off times?
No, the internet access is remotely turned off through the device, regardless of what type of internet it is connecting to.

Will this affect my personal internet use through ATT, Carolina Connect, WCFiber, Xfinity, Hughesnet, or other cable, internet, or satellite service?
No, this will not affect personal devices owned by students and/or parents.

What if I do not have internet access at my home?
Unfortunately, many families in our community are still without reliable home internet access, and some don't have access at all. Teachers are mindful of these situations and plan homework accordingly. Students should download any necessary assignments that require internet access prior to the shut-off time.

What if I want my child to access i-Ready after the established shut off time?
The i-Ready program has specific recommendations regarding student use. They recommend that students use the program no more than 60 minutes per week, which is currently built into schedules for use during school hours. Any use beyond this is not recommended as it will be of little benefit to students. i-Ready should not be given as a homework assignment.

Please note that the District will monitor implementation of the shut-off times and make adjustments, as needed.