September 9, 2026

Dear Students and Families,

Every student deserves to feel safe and supported at school and keeping schools and students safe starts with you. As the 2026-2027 school year begins, we are focused on ensuring that every student's school experience is safe, academically rigorous, and truly integrated. We understand that safety requires collaboration among staff, students, and families. Accordingly, one of the most important ways we can work together to keep our schools safe is by increasing awareness of what items are not allowed in school buildings.

In accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-412, which governs security in schools and sets forth the responsibilities and procedures for maintaining safety and security in schools, a safe school environment must be free of weapons and other prohibited items, regardless of whether they are prohibited by law. Those include but are not limited to (1) weapons (such as firearms, tasers, knives, brass knuckles) (2) marijuana, (3) illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia, (4) alcohol, (5) laser pointers or items that emit intense light beams, (6) fireworks (including explosives and incendiary devices), (7) gel blasters and projectiles, (8) vaping devices, (9) e-cigarettes, and (10) pepper spray. Those objects may not be brought into any New York City Public Schools or other NYCPS property. Students found to be in possession of a prohibited item will be subject to a disciplinary response as per the Discipline Code.

To further support a shared understanding of prohibited items, a poster visually illustrating those objects will be displayed in all school buildings.

New York City Public Schools prioritizes safe, secure, and positive school environments for all. We look forward to a safe and productive school year.

Sincerely,

Mark Rampersant
Chief, Office of Safety and Prevention Partnerships
New York City Public Schools