



Cell Phone Policy Update

Effective: 2025–2026 School Year

Partnering with Parents to Support Focused, Safe Learning Environments

FAQ

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Why is Cedar Hill ISD (CHISD) updating its cell phone policy?

To help students stay focused, engaged, and ready to succeed, Cedar Hill ISD is updating its cell phone policy in alignment with the State of Texas [House Bill 1481](#). This update limits personal device use during instructional time—allowing scholars to be more present, build stronger connections, and fully participate in learning. Together, we're creating a safe, supportive environment where every Longhorn can thrive.

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What does the policy apply to? *Instructional use of district-issued devices is not impacted.*

The term "cell phone" includes:

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches
- Headphones and earbuds
- Any personal communication device not issued by CHISD

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Are headphones banned entirely?

Headphones are not allowed for personal use during the school day, but:

- Teachers may allow them during instruction for academic activities.
- District-issued headphones for learning are not impacted by this policy.

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When can my child use their device?

Grade Level	Before/After School	In Class	Passing Periods	Lunch
PK - 12	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No

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Can my child call me in case of an emergency?

Yes. If there is a personal or medical emergency, your child may:

- Request to call you from the front office or nurse's office.
- Be supported by staff who are trained to assist in emergencies.

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My child has a medical condition. Can they keep their phone for health reasons?

Yes. Students with documented medical needs that require phone access may receive individual accommodations. Please:

- Provide documentation to the school nurse and campus administrator.
- Work with staff to create a plan that supports your child's health and privacy.

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What happens during a lockdown or safety event?

In an emergency:

- Students are expected to follow staff directions and remain calm.
- Phones should not be used during lockdowns to prevent the spread of misinformation or drawing attention.
- CHISD will communicate updates directly with families using official tools like phone calls, emails, and texts.

Student safety is our top priority, and this policy supports safety protocols by reducing confusion during critical events.

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How is my child's phone handled if it's taken?

Only a parent/guardian may retrieve the phone. Payment must be made in person at the school office.

Offense	Phone Taken	Parent Notification	Parent Conference	\$15 Fee	Skyward Violation	School Detention	In- School Suspension
#1	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
#2	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
#3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	1 Day
#4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	2 Days
#5 or More	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	3 Days

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Where are confiscated phones stored, are they safe?

Yes. Confiscated devices are kept in a locked and secure location in the campus office and are only handled by authorized staff. Devices are released only to a parent/guardian with proper ID and payment.

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Is the district responsible for damage or loss of phones?

No. CHISD is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal devices, including those that are confiscated. Students and families are encouraged to leave valuables at home or use devices responsibly.

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Can my student pay the \$15 fee and get the phone themselves?

No. For accountability and consistency:

- Only a parent or guardian may pick up a phone.
- The \$15 administrative fee must be paid in person.

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What if I can't pick up the phone the same day, and my child rides the bus?

We understand that family schedules vary. If you're unable to retrieve the phone right away:

- Your child will still be allowed to ride the bus home.
- You can schedule a time to pick up the device during school hours.
- Phones will be stored securely until pickup.

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Other devices are allowed, why are phones different?

Phones create more frequent disruptions through notifications, messaging, and access to non-instructional apps. Even when "silent," phones can interrupt focus and engagement. Limiting them ensures:

- Fewer distractions
- More classroom participation
- Healthier peer-to-peer interaction

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What if my child needs their phone to log in to Dallas College for dual credit classes?

Students who are enrolled in Dallas College dual credit courses and require their phones for multi-factor authentication (such as receiving a code via text, call, or using the Microsoft Authenticator app) should notify their teacher or campus administrator. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure students can access required instructional platforms while still following district guidelines.

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How can I help as a parent?

- Talk to your student about responsible phone use
- Remind them to keep phones stored and off during the day
- Ensure your contact info is up-to-date in Skyward
- Reach out to your campus with questions or concerns

Thank you for your support as we work together to create safe, focused learning environments for all Longhorns.