



Gregory-Portland Independent School District

Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Michelle Cavazos, Superintendent of Schools

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Dear G-PISD Parents and Guardians,

We want to make you aware of a recent change in state law that will impact all Texas school districts, including ours. The Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1481 (HB 1481), signed by Governor Greg Abbott, which requires all school districts in the state to adopt a written policy prohibiting student use of personal communication devices during the school day, beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year. HB 1481 is part of a broader national legislative effort to reduce digital distractions in classrooms and help students stay focused on education. Gregory-Portland ISD (G-PISD) is committed to providing exceptional instructional experiences within a positive and safe learning environment that supports student success.

In response to the passage of HB 1481, we understand the importance of this change and its potential impact on students and families. The G-PISD Board of Trustees and district leadership team have developed a thoughtful implementation plan. This plan is designed to support learning, minimize distractions, and prioritize student safety at all times.

Cellphone use during the school day has become a cause for concern over the years. Mobile devices often disrupt learning, hinder in-person interaction among students, and have been linked to increased incidents of cyberbullying and negative mental health outcomes. By limiting device access, G-PISD aims to create a more focused, engaging, and socially connected learning environment for all students.

Moving forward, G-PISD will utilize CellockED device pouches to securely store students' personal communication devices during the school day. CellockED is a durable, signal-blocking magnetic pouch with an automatic locking mechanism. It allows students to keep their devices in their possession without the ability to access them throughout the school day. By securely storing personal communication devices, students can remain more focused during class, which supports increased academic success.

Elementary Campuses: At G-PISD elementary campuses, students will not be permitted to use personal communication devices or other "smart" devices throughout the school day. If a student chooses to bring a personal communication device to school, it must remain turned off and stored with their belongings, such as a backpack. To ensure consistent enforcement of the policy, device pouches will be used at the elementary level as needed.

Middle School and High School: At G-PISD middle and high school campuses, device pouches will be issued to students at the beginning of the school year for securing their personal communication devices during the school day. Students will be required to place their devices in the magnetically sealed pouch each morning and keep them secured throughout the school day. At dismissal, students may unlock their pouches at designated device pouch unlock stations located on campus.



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For more information about the new personal communication device pouches, including frequently asked questions, please see the attached materials. To read about HB 1481, visit <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/html/HB01481F.htm>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your student's campus Principal or Assistant Principal.

Best regards,

Michelle M. Cavazos

Michelle M. Cavazos, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Gregory-Portland Independent School District