New Texas Law—House Bill 1481—"No Cell Phone Policy" for Students

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, a new Texas law, HB 1481, mandates that school districts implement a strict "No Cell Phone Policy" for student use of personal communication devices during the school day. In compliance with this law, Nazareth ISD will require all students to leave their personal communication devices at home or powered off and stored away while on campus. Personal communication devices will not be permitted for use at any time during school hours. This legislation aims to reduce distractions, safeguard student privacy, and enhance the overall learning environment.

What is a Personal Communication Device?

- **Cell Phone**
- **Smartwatch or Fitness Tracker with messaging capabilities**
- **Bluetooth Earbuds or Headphones**
- **Tablet or Personal Computer**
- **Gaming Device and Two-Way Radios**
- **Pager or other electronic devices capable of telecommunication or digital communication**

Nazareth ISD Policy (Effective August 2025, first day of school)

- **Students may bring devices to school; however,**
- **Devices must be powered off and stored away securely during the school day (backpack or locker)**
- **Use is NOT allowed during class and passing periods, tutorials, in the cafeteria, at recess, in restrooms, PE/athletics, etc.**

Exceptions:

- **A student has an IEP or 504 Plan that requires device access**
- **A physician's order is on file for a medical need**
- **A school administrator grants permission for safety or legal reasons**
- **It is a school-issued device specifically for instruction/learning**

CONSEQUENCES—If a student uses a personal communication device without authorization during the school day, the student will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct including, but not limited to, the following:

1st OFFENSE—The confiscated device may be picked up from the principal/office by the student after school. The student will be required to turn in personal devices to the principal/office upon arrival at school for 10 school days.

2nd OFFENSE—The confiscated device may be picked up from the principal/office by a parent after a scheduled conference with the principal. The student will be required to turn in personal devices to the principal/office upon arrival at school for the remainder of the semester.

3rd + OFFENSE—Includes corporal punishment and/or ISS. The student will not be allowed to bring any personal devices onto school property for the remainder of the school year.

The district reserves the right to adjust/modify this policy and consequences as needed if there is a need to address persistent problems with students using personal devices during the school day.

We encourage parents and guardians to begin discussing this upcoming change with their student(s) to help families be prepared when school starts in August.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to ensure a smooth transition and compliance with this new state law.

Together we can create a distraction-free learning environment