ROPES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

From the Office of Superintendent of Schools, Dade Cosby
304 Ranch Road Ropesville, TX 79358 • 806-562-4031 • www.ropesisd.us

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Date: July 30, 2025

Subject: Important Update: House Bill 1481 and Student Use of Personal Wireless Devices

Dear Ropes ISD Families,

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, which requires school districts to adopt policies prohibiting students from using personal wireless communication devices during instructional time.

Under HB 1481:

- A *personal wireless communication device* includes items such as cell phones, text messaging devices, laptops, tablets, and smartwatches — any device capable of transmitting or receiving data that is not provided by the school for instructional purposes.

- District policies must designate a secure, out-of-sight storage area for these devices in classrooms during instructional time.

We understand the importance of this change and its potential impact on students and families. Our Board of Trustees and district leadership team are working thoughtfully to create a policy that meets the requirements of HB 1481 while supporting student learning, minimizing distractions, and ensuring safety.

Next Steps:

- The Board of Trustees will review and adopt the new policy in the coming weeks.

- We will share detailed procedures, expectations, and guidance with families and students by August 6, 2026 to help you prepare for the new school year.

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We appreciate your understanding and partnership as we implement this state-mandated policy. Our goal is to create a plan that reflects the needs of our students and staff while aligning with the law.

If you would like to read HB 1481, visit https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB01481I.pdf. If you have any questions, please contact (Insert contact information — e.g., your child's campus or the district office). You can also learn more on our website at XXXXXX.

Sincerely,



Dade Cosby
Superintendent