

No Personal Communication Devices

The Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1481, which requires school districts to adopt policies prohibiting students from using personal wireless communication devices during the school day.

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.*
- *If you would like to read HB 1481, visit <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB01481I.pdf>.*



Under the new policy, all personal communication devices must be powered off and stored out of sight in student backpacks during school hours (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.). This applies throughout the entire school day, including passing periods and lunch.

The District understands 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.

Key Changes in the Policy Include:

- Students are **prohibited from using personal communication devices during the instructional day** unless authorized by a staff member for educational purposes.
- Any student needing to make an emergency call may request to use the **office phone**.
- Devices that are visible or used during the school day will be **confiscated** and consequences will follow a progressive discipline model:
 - **1st Offense:** After-school detention; device held in the main office until served; parent notified.
 - **2nd Offense:** Repeat of first offense consequences.
 - **3rd Offense:** Device held until picked up by a parent; student required to check in the device at the front office daily for the rest of the semester.

- Serious infractions such as **cyberbullying, harassment, or unlawful use** of devices may result in suspension or other disciplinary action.

Poth ISD encourages parents and guardians to discuss the importance of these changes with their students and to review and sign the district's updated Personal Communication Device Acknowledgement Form, which will be distributed at the start of the school year.

For more information, visit www.pothisd.us or contact your child's campus office.