

# NEW TEXAS CELL PHONE LAW

House Bill 1481 prohibits students from using personal communication devices during the school day.

This law applies to:

- Cell phones
- Non-district issued electronic devices
- Smartwatches
- Air Pods and all Bluetooth-enabled headphones or accessories



## Personal devices must be turned off and put away during the school day.

Devices must be stored in a backpack, bag, or a purse. Devices cannot be stored in clothing pockets. The school day is defined as the first bell to the dismissal bell.

## Use in the Hallways

The use of personal communication devices is prohibited at all times.

## Use at Lunch

Lunch is considered part of the school day therefore the use of electronic devices is prohibited under Texas Law.

## Emergency Situations

Administrators may approve the use of cell phones in emergency situations where the device is necessary for the health or safety of students or others.



## Additional Notices

The Texas law requires school districts to administer disciplinary consequences if students violate the personal communication device policy in schools. Each infraction of this policy will result in the following escalating consequences:

- Confiscation of the device
- Return of device at the end of the school day
- Parent notification each time
- Progressive discipline may include:
  - In-School Suspension (ISS), increasing with multiple offenses
  - Possible placement in an Alternative Education Program (AEP) after multiple offenses for persistent misbehavior