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## HB1481 HISD Personal Communication Device Policy FNCE (Regulation)

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### Texas House Bill 1481

In accordance with Texas House Bill 1481 and to ensure an academically focused school environment, the use of personal communication devices is prohibited by law during the school day on school property.

### Personal communication devices, as defined by law, include the following:

- Cell phones
- Tablets
- Smartwatches or wearable communication devices
- Any electronic device capable of digital communication

### Students shall not:

- Use phones or other devices for any reason (calls, texts, photos, social media, internet access, etc.)
- Display or visibly carry phones
- Use smartwatches or other wearable communication devices
- Have phones or other devices on school property, visible or audible at any time from 30 minutes before the school day starts to 30 minutes after the school day ends, including lunch and passing periods

### Our expectations are that:

- Students must leave their phones or devices at home or store them, powered off, in their backpacks while on school property
- Phones and devices must remain out of sight and unused on school property.
- Phones may not be carried in clothing or worn visibly at any time.

### If a phone is seen, heard, or used during the school day:

1. The device will be confiscated by staff.
2. Staff will place the device in an envelope and label it clearly with the student's full name, the date and time of confiscation, and the name of the staff member who confiscated the device.
3. Staff or administration will deliver the device to the office for secure storage and retrieval by the parent/guardian.
4. Upon parent/guardian retrieval, the parent will sign a copy of the state law, HISD policy, and confirm receipt of the device.

**HISD will not be held responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged devices confiscated due to the violation of the law and district policy.**

### Consequences:

- 1st Offense: Parents/guardians may retrieve the phone from the office after school, review, and sign the HISD Personal Communication Devices Policy as it relates to the law.
- 2nd Offense: Parents/guardians may pick up the phone in the office at the end of the following full school day.
- 3rd Offense: Parents/guardians may pick up the phone in the office at the end of two full school days.

**Further offenses will result in elevated formal disciplinary action, as outlined in the HISD Student Code of Conduct, which includes DAEP placement.**

### Accommodations:

This prohibition does not apply to the use of devices that are necessary for:

1. Disability-related accommodations under federal law (e.g., IEP or Section 504 plan).
2. The student's possession or use is required due to a documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician.
3. Compliance with health and safety requirements imposed by law or as part of the district's or school's safety protocol.