



Personal Communication Device
Standard Discipline Procedures
2025-2026

House Bill 1481, passed during the 89th Legislative Session, amends Section 37.082 of the Texas Education Code and directly impacts the management of student personal communication devices (e.g., cell phones, smartwatches, tablets) during the instructional school day. Districts must adopt, implement, and ensure compliance with a written policy prohibiting students from using personal communication devices while on school property during the school day.

Definition:

A "personal communication [paging] device" includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, radios, pagers, gaming devices, AirPods, and any other device capable of telecommunication or digital communication. Devices provided by the school or district are not subject to this restriction. The term does not include an electronic device provided to a student by a school district or open-enrollment charter school.

See the district's acceptable use agreements for technology, which should be signed each year. [See CQ(EXHIBIT)].

Exemptions:

Schools must authorize the use of a personal communication device for the following purposes:

- (1) necessary to implement an individualized education program, a plan created under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794), or a similar program or plan;
- (2) by a student with a documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician;
or
- (3) necessary to comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as part of the district's or school's safety protocols.

Storage:

All personal communication devices must be turned off and stored out of sight during the school day while in the school building. The devices must not be removed until the student leaves the school building. All personal communication devices must remain turned off during the school day and stored unless used for approved purposes, as outlined in this policy.

Definition of School Day:

The school day begins when the student enters the school building and ends when the student leaves the school building for the day or after the last instructional bell rings, whichever comes first.

Restriction:

The use of cell phones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in the locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

Consequences:

Students who turn on, use, or remove a personal communication device from proper storage during the school day will receive disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Consequences</u>	
First Offense	Verbal Warning and Parent Notification (Use of Local Code)	*Confiscation of the phone
Second Offense	Verbal Warning and Parent Conference (Use of Local Code)	*Confiscation of the phone
Third and Subsequent Offenses	Parent Conference and use of SCC: Possession of a telecommunication or other electronic device (21-Violation of the SCC) Possible consequences can include, but are not limited to, Detention, Saturday School, ISS, OSS, and confiscation of the phone.	*Confiscation of the Phone
Continuous Violations	Repeated general conduct violations could result in DAEP for persistent violation of the SCC.	

Confiscation of Phones:

Teachers/Staff/Administrators will request the telecommunication device from the student. Campus administration and staff will remind students and parents of the policy and the consequences for violating the student code of conduct.

An incident will be entered into Frontline by the teacher or staff member, using the local code for possession of a telecommunication device, for tracking purposes, on the first and second time. The action code will be the conference with the student and the parent.

If the student refuses to comply, a teacher can call for an administrator. Additional consequences may be considered for refusal to comply with a school personnel's directive. An administrator will then convert the teacher incident into a referral, using the PEIMS code 21-Violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and assign an Action code of ISS, OSS, or possible DAEP placement.

Any refusal to surrender a personal communication device when requested will be considered a violation of the SCC (Failure to comply with directives given by school personnel) and could result in either a suspension or placement at DAEP. The Campus Behavior Coordinator must use their administrative discretion to make the best disciplinary decision based on the student's disciplinary history.

First and Second Time Offenses:

Phones that are confiscated by a teacher/administrator will be retrieved on the following school day by the student or parent.

- First Offense: The student can pick up, with parent notification.
- Second Offense: The parent is required to pick up

*If the first or second offense occurs on the last day of a school week, a student's parent or legal guardian may retrieve the personal communications device at the end of the same school day it was confiscated.

Disposal of Phone (FNCE (Local))

In accordance with Texas Education Code§ 37.082, if a parent or guardian has not retrieved the personal communications device after a reasonable time has passed, the District shall send written notice to the student's parent/guardian or student, if 18 years old, a letter 90 days prior of its intent to dispose of that device.