

STEPHANIE S. ELIZALDE ED.D.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 4, 2025

Dear Dallas ISD Families,

We hope you are enjoying a safe and restful summer. As we prepare for the new school year, we want to inform you about an important update that will impact all Texas public school campuses, including ours.

A new Texas state law, House Bill 1481 (HB 1481), prohibits students from using **personal communication devices during the school day**. This includes **cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, laptops, airpods, smart glasses**, and any other device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.

This means, Dallas ISD will begin implementation on the first day of school, Tuesday, August 12.

We understand that this change may take some getting used to for students and families. Please know our goal is not to inconvenience, but rather to follow state law. As always, student safety remains our top priority. Students will continue to have access to school phones in case of an emergency. Students with documented medical and/or instructional needs may be exempt.

Each campus has a plan for how devices should be stored, and our team will work with students to support them through this transition. At the elementary level, teachers will collect all personal devices in homeroom class, where they will be stored the entire day. Students will be given their devices back at the end of the day. However, at the secondary level, campuses will use cell phone pouches to store personal devices. Cellular devices must be turned off and placed in the pouch. At the end of the school day students will use a magnetic device to unlock their pouch. **Students who use personal devices during the school day will face consequences, including temporary confiscation and parent pickup**, as outlined in the 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct.

We are committed to working in partnership with you as we implement this new state law and appreciate your support in preparing your student(s) for a successful school year. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact your campus leadership team.

For more information about HB 1481 or to review Frequently Asked Questions, please visit [www.dallasisd.org/DeviceFree](http://www.dallasisd.org/DeviceFree).

Thank you for your support.

In service,

Tiffany Huitt-Powell

Chief of Schools, Dallas ISD

