



BISD Student Code of Conduct & Student Handbook Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - 2025-26 School Year

1. What are the changes in the Student Code of Conduct for the 2025-2026 school year?

A new state law — House Bill 1481 — says students may not use personal communication devices during the school day. That means cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices, or any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication are prohibited while on school property from when students first enter the building to the final dismissal bell. Devices must be turned off, out of sight, and stored away — in a backpack or on their person — for the entire school day.

This law applies to every public school in Texas, kindergarten through 12th grade, and we are required to adopt and enforce policies that match the law.

2. What's the rationale for the renewed enforcement of the personal communication device rules?

BISD seeks to provide a productive, effective and safe learning environment for all of our students. This change is designed with students' success in mind. By removing the distraction of devices, we can boost focus and engagement in the classroom, spark more real-world conversations and help limit negative online interactions and conflicts that can take away from learning. These clear expectations give students the chance to fully immerse themselves in their education — and in the friendships and connections that make school life so meaningful.

3. What student devices are impacted by the change?

"Personal communication device" means a telephone, cell phone such as a smartphone or flip phone, tablet, smartwatch, radio device, paging device, or any other electronic devices capable of telecommunication or digital communication. The term does not include an electronic device provided to a student by a school district.

4. What about smartwatches? Can students wear them?

No. Smartwatches can send/receive messages, make calls, and otherwise communicate. Smartwatches must be off and away during the school day.

5. Is my student allowed to bring their cell phone or other personal communications devices to school?

Yes. We know that cellular devices and other personal communications devices are an important communication tool for parents to communicate with their student before and after school. Students can possess personal communications devices at school. These devices must remain turned off and out of sight during the school day. The school day begins when a student first enters the building and ends when the final dismissal bell rings.

6. When is my student allowed to use their cell phone or other personal communications devices?

Students may use their cellular devices before they first enter the school building and after the final dismissal bell of the day rings. In between these times (or during the school day) these devices must remain off and stored out of sight either in their back pack or on their person.

7. Can my student use their phone on the school bus?

Yes. The law only applies during the school day. Students may use personal devices before they first enter the school building and after the final bell, including on any district-provided bus or other vehicle.

- 8. What if my student walks home and needs their phone for safety?**
Students may access and use their phones after the final bell. The law applies only during the school day, so phones can be turned on once the school day is over.
- 9. What if my student forgets something at home or has an appointment? Can they check their phone to let me know?**
No. Students may not use their phones to contact parents during the school day, even for things like forgotten items or appointments. If a student needs to make a call, they can use the front office phone. We encourage families to communicate any planned appointments or early checkouts before the school day begins. If an unexpected situation arises, such as an early appointment or a need to pick up your child, the front office will contact the student directly.
- 10. What if my student has off-campus classes? Can they use their phone once they sign out?**
Yes. Once a student is off campus, they may use their personal communication devices. Phones must remain stored until they leave school grounds.
- 11. What happens if the rules are broken?**
The goal of the new device policy is to support learning. Consistent expectations are important. Violations of the rule will result in consequences under the BISD Student Code of Conduct. Here's how violations will be addressed: (These are guidelines only. Depending on the situation and the student, students who are in non-compliance with these classroom rules may be assigned any disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Discipline Management Techniques outlined in the BISD Student Code of Conduct)
- 1st offense: Verbal warning to student to comply with the rule
 - 2nd offense: Classroom teacher confiscates the device. The device may be returned to the student at the end of the class period. Parent contact made by the teacher.
 - 3rd offense: Office referral. The classroom teacher confiscates the device and turns the device into the office. Detention assigned to the student by the office. Parent contact made by the Assistant Principal. The device may be picked up from the office at the end of the day by the student or parent.
 - 4th offense: Office referral. The classroom teacher confiscates the device and turns the device into the office. In-school suspension assigned to the student by the office. Parent contact made by the Assistant Principal. The device may be picked up from the office by the student's parent or guardian.
 - Loss of Privilege: Ongoing violations may lead to the student losing the privilege of bringing an electronic communication device to school at all.
 - Further Consequences: Continued misuse will be treated as a violation of the Boerne ISD Student Code of Conduct, which will result in additional disciplinary action.
- 12. What happens if a phone rings or vibrates in the backpack during class?**
If the phone causes a disruption, even unintentionally, it may be confiscated and treated as a violation. Devices should be completely powered off and silent during the school day.



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13. If my student's phone or device is taken up, when will it be returned?

If the phone/device is taken up in class, by the classroom teacher, and it is the student's first infraction, the phone/device will be returned to the student at the end of the class period. If the phone/device is taken up by an administrator, or if the student has multiple infractions, the phone/device may be returned at the end of the student's school day. A student's parent will be contacted if the student's phone/device is taken up. For students with multiple infractions, the campus may require the student's parent to pick up the phone/device.

14. Will there be a fine to pay to have the student's cellular device returned?

No.

15. How can I communicate with my student during the school day if I need to?

Parents/Guardians looking to reach their student during the school day may contact the classroom teacher or the front office.

16. What if my student has a medical need for a personal communications device?

There are some exceptions for students with support needs who rely upon their phones/devices for support as a part of a Section 504 plan or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Parents or students with these needs should contact their campus administrator.

17. If I have additional questions regarding the new changes, who can I contact?

Any campus administrator at your student's campus will be able to answer questions regarding the Student Code of Conduct or Student Handbook.