

## 1 Why is Texarkana ISD (TISD) updating its cell phone policy?

To help students stay focused, engaged, and ready to succeed, Texarkana ISD is updating its cell phone policy in alignment with the State of [Texas House Bill 1481](#). This update limits personal device use during the school day—allowing students to be more present, build stronger connections, and fully participate in learning. Together, we’re creating a safe, supportive environment where every Tiger can thrive.

## 2 What does the policy apply to? *Instructional use of district-issued devices is not impacted.*

It applies to all personal communication devices:

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches
- Headphones and earbuds
- Any personal communication device not issued by TISD

## 3 Are headphones banned entirely?

Headphones are not allowed for personal use during the school day, but:

- Teachers may allow them during instruction for academic activities on district-issued devices.
- District-issued headphones for learning are not impacted by this policy.

## 4 When can my child use their device?

Grade Level	Before/After School	In Class	Passing Periods	Lunch
PK - 12	✔ Yes	✘ No	✘ No	✘ No

## 5 Can my child call me in case of an emergency?

Yes. If there is a personal or medical emergency, your child may:

- Request to call you from the front office or nurse’s office.
- Be supported by staff who are trained to assist in emergencies.
- May not use personal communication device.

## 6 Will my child be allowed to keep the phone for medical reasons?

Yes. Students with documented medical needs that require phone access may receive individual accommodations. Please:

- Provide documentation to the school nurse and campus administrator.
- Work with staff to create a plan that supports your child’s health and privacy.

## 7 What happens during a lockdown or safety event?

In an emergency:

- Students are expected to follow staff directions and remain calm.
- Phones should not be used during lockdowns to prevent the spread of misinformation or drawing attention.
- TISD will communicate updates directly with families using official tools like phone calls, emails, and texts.

Student safety is our top priority, and this policy supports safety protocols by reducing confusion during critical events.

## 8 How is my child's phone handled if it's taken?

Only a parent/guardian may retrieve the phone.

Offense	Phone Taken	Parent Notification	Parent Conference	School Detention	In-School Suspension
#1	✓	✓	–	–	–
#2	✓	✓	–	✓ for 1 day	–
#3	✓	✓	–	✓ for 3 days	–
#4	✓ held for 3 days	✓	✓	–	✓ for 1 day
#5	✓ held for 5 days	✓	✓	–	✓ for 3 days
#6 or more	✓ held for 5 days	✓	✓	–	✓ for 5 days

## 9 Where are confiscated phones stored, are they safe?

Yes. Confiscated devices are kept in a locked and secure location in the campus office and are only handled by authorized staff. Devices are released only to a parent/guardian with proper ID.

## 10 Is the district responsible for damage or loss of phones?

No. TISD is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal devices, including those that are confiscated. Students and families are encouraged to leave valuables at home or use devices responsibly.

## 11 Can my child use their phone on the bus to electives that may be off campus?

No. Personal communication devices can not be used during the school day.

## 12 What if I can't pick up the phone the same day, and my child rides the bus?

We understand that family schedules vary. If you're unable to retrieve the phone right away:

- Your child will still be allowed to ride the bus home.
- You can schedule a time to pick up the device during school hours.
- Phones will be stored securely until pickup.

## 13 Are devices other than cell phones allowed?

No. [Texas House Bill 1481](#) includes all personal communication devices. These devices create more disruptions through notifications, messaging, and access to non-instructional apps. Even when "silent," they can interrupt focus and engagement. Limiting them ensures:

- Fewer distractions
- More classroom participation
- Healthier peer-to-peer interaction

## 14 How can I help as a parent?

- Talk to your student about responsible phone use.
- Remind them to keep personal communication devices stored and off during the day.
- Ensure your contact info is up-to-date in TEAMS.
- Reach out to your campus with questions or concerns.

***Thank you for your support as we work together to create safe, focused learning environments for all Tigers.***