

Calallen ISD

Personal Communication Device Regulations



House Bill 1481 passed by the Texas Legislature, requires Calallen ISD to prohibit student use of personal communication devices during the instructional day. School systems may comply by either:

- Prohibiting students from bringing devices to campus, or
- Designating a method to securely store the devices during the school day.

Except as identified in this policy, no student shall be authorized to possess a personal communication device while on school property during the school day.

Pre-Kinder through Grade 2 Students

- Students must keep a personal communication device powered off for the entirety of the school day while on school property, and must keep it out of reach in the student's backpack.

Grades 3 through 12 Students

- Students must contain their personal communication devices, powered off, within a secured storage pouch as described below.
 - Students will be provided a Cellairis Cyber Pouch at the start of the school year.
 - Student school issued ID cards should be placed in the pouch for easy identification.
 - Each morning, students will power off all devices and place in the pouch, present it upon entry into the school, and keep it sealed until dismissal.

What constitutes a personal communication device?

- Telephone or cell phone
- Tablet / Laptop
- Smartwatch
- Headphones and Earbuds
- Smart Glasses or other wearable device
- Text Messaging Device, including handheld gaming systems
- Any electronic communication device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.

Consequences

Students should not hold / have a device in their hands at any time during the school day; students found physically accessing the device are in violation of the policy. A student who violates this policy is subject to the following disciplinary measures, subject to and in accordance with the district's Student Code of Conduct (SCOC), including progressive sanctions for ongoing violations:

Elementary and Intermediate Students

- 1st Offense: Device will be confiscated, and parent/guardian must pick up device from campus.
- 2nd Offense: Device will be confiscated, parent/guardian must pick up device from campus, and student will serve lunch detention.
- 3rd Offense: Device will be confiscated, parent/guardian must pick up device from campus, and student will serve one day in ISS.
- 4th Offense: Device will be confiscated, parent/guardian must pick up device from campus, and student will serve two days in ISS.

- 5th Offense: Device will be confiscated, parent/guardian must pick up device from campus, and student will serve three days in ISS.

Secondary Students

- 1st Offense: Device will be confiscated, and parent/guardian must pick up device from campus.
- 2nd Offense: Device will be confiscated, parent/guardian must pick up device from campus, and student will serve one day in ISS.
- 3rd Offense: Device will be confiscated, parent/guardian must pick up device from campus, and student will serve two days in ISS.
- 4th Offense: Device will be confiscated, parent/guardian must pick up device from campus, and student will serve three days in ISS.
- 5th Offense: Device will be confiscated, parent/guardian must pick up device from campus, and student will be assigned to DAEP for insubordination and refusing to comply with school rules and guidelines.

Calallen ISD

Personal Communication Device FAQ



When does HB 1481 go into effect?

The law is in effect beginning the 2025-2026 school year.

Why was House Bill 1481 enacted?

Multiple studies have documented the harmful effects of cell phone and social media use on student well-being and academic progress. As a result, Texas law requires public schools to prohibit the use of personal communication devices during the school day on school property. This policy is adopted to implement this requirement and improve the quality of the learning environment in our schools. The law and policy change has been made to:

- Minimize classroom disruptions and encourage focused learning.
- Promote positive social interactions and engagement during school hours.
- Help ensure student safety and responsible use of technology.

Are there any exceptions to the personal communication policy?

Personal communication devices may be authorized for the following uses:

- The device is necessary to implement an individualized program (IEP), a plan created under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794), or a similar program or plan;
- A student has a documented need to use a personal communication device based on a directive from a qualified physician; a directive must be submitted to the campus principal. A qualified physician for purposes of this policy shall mean a physician licensed to practice in Texas. The directive must state the conditions under which the student would need to access and use their personal communication device during the school day on school property. The parent may be asked to sign consent for school staff to contact the physician should the school need more information in order to comply with the directive. Use authorized under this provision should be conducted in a manner that minimizes disruption to instruction and the school environment, and may be subject to reasonable limitation on time, place and manner as determined by principal or designee. Authorization under this provision can be revoked if the device is being used in a way that is found to disrupt the learning environment.; or
- If the superintendent determines that a legally required health or safety requirement would authorize or require the use of a personal communication device, the superintendent shall notify all appropriate staff of the circumstances by which this would be authorized or required. The school board must vote to approve any use under this exception.
- Campus principals are authorized to use discretion in permitting student use of personal communication devices in emergency circumstances. Any use permitted under this exception must be reported to the board during the next regularly scheduled school board meeting.

Any student who is provided an exception in accordance with the above remains subject to disciplinary measures if the student uses a personal communication device outside the scope of the documented authorized use.

What constitutes school property?

“School property” means anywhere on a school’s campus or in a district facility where instruction is provided, including but not limited to: classrooms, hallways, gyms, cafeterias, band halls and all other

extracurricular spaces; outdoor fields, tracks, and other athletic areas; all breezeways, courtyards, playgrounds, and other outdoor areas, specifically including all school parking lots.

What constitutes a school day?

“School day” means the time of day when the student first arrives on campus and ends at dismissal.

What is a Secured Storage Pouch?

“Secured storage pouch” is a bag or pouch provided by the school system to the student in which a personal communication device can be placed while powered off and secured in a way that prevents it from being easily opened.

Who is allowed to confiscate a communication device?

All district administrators and school-based staff members are authorized to confiscate a personal communication device used in violation of this policy. If a staff member confiscates a student device, the staff member will deliver the device to the main campus office when convenient during the day.

What happens to confiscated devices that are not picked up by a parent?

Parents will be provided a 90-day notice of CISD’s intent to dispose of any device not collected.

Are there any times during the day that students will be allowed to use their communication device?

No.

Will a phone be released to a student if a parent cannot come up to the school?

No. All confiscated devices must be retrieved by the parent. Parents are encouraged to call the campus and make an appointment with an administrator to retrieve the confiscated device.

What if a student does not bring a communication device to school?

They will not be required to use the device pouch.

For high school students who drive, can they leave their phone in their vehicle without a pouch?

Yes.

What about extracurricular activities and travel?

Decisions for use outside of the instructional day will be made at the campus/department level.

How can a parent or guardian communicate with their child during the school day?

Parents can reach their child by contacting the front office of their child’s campus.

What if there is a school emergency?

In the event of a school emergency, teachers and administrators guide students through established safety protocols, such as lockdowns or evacuations. During a lockdown, students are expected to remain silent and out of sight to protect themselves and others. CISD campuses are equipped with multiple systems to immediately contact 911 and request emergency assistance.

If a real emergency occurs, students may use their personal communication devices to notify parents once first responders or CISD Safety & Security confirm it is safe to do so.

As a reminder, if a campus initiates a significant safety protocol such as a lockdown or evacuation, parents will receive a notification through the district's messaging system with important updates and next steps.

What if a student forgets their pouch at home?

In the event a student brings a personal communication device to school and has forgotten their secure pouch, the student should bring the device to the campus main office when the school day begins, where it must remain for the entirety of the school day.

What if a student loses or damages their pouch?

The student will be responsible for the pouch replacement cost of \$20.00. A parent who is unable to pay this fee may contact the principal to inquire whether the fee can be waived. Whether a pouch is damaged is determined by the principal or designee.

Students are responsible for securing a replacement pouch from the campus front office. Until a new pouch is obtained, students must leave their personal communication devices at home.