

# HB 1481

## Update



# Texas has officially banned cell phones in schools

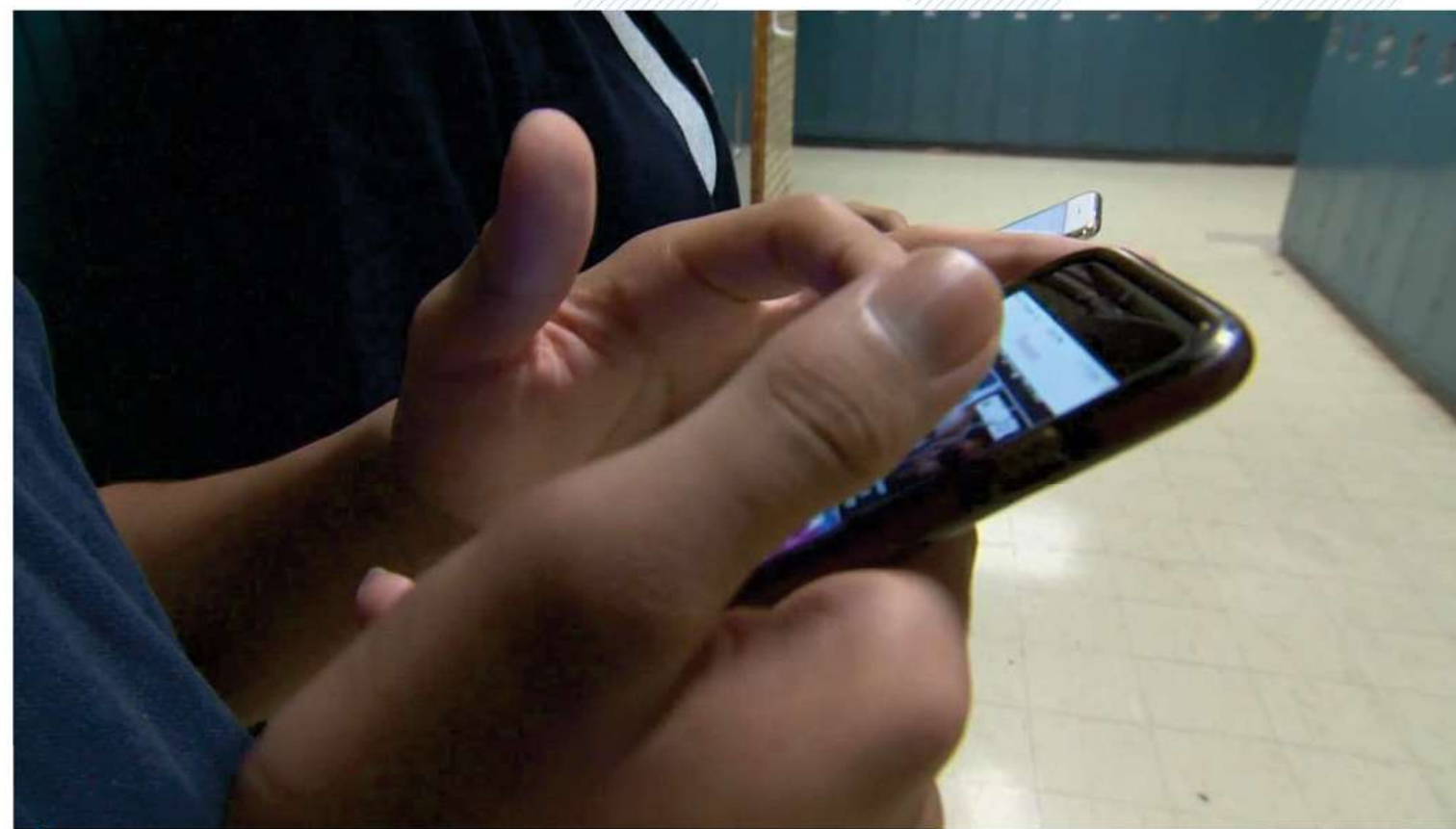
by Xochilt Garcia  
June 27, 2025



School districts and charter schools have 90 days since Abbott signed the cellphone ban to adopt one of two policies: completely ban cell phones from school grounds or store them away during school hours. Credit: Kylie Cooper / The Texas Tribune

## Texas governor signs statewide cellphone ban for public schools into law

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Texas schools must now enforce rules requiring students to lock away cellphones during school hours.





## HB 1481: Cell Phones

- School districts & charters must adopt a policy prohibiting use of cell phones while on school property during the school day.
- In adopting a policy, district or school must authorize use necessary to implement IEP, 504 plan, or other similar program/plan; by a student with a documented need based on doctor directive; or as necessary to comply with health or safety requirement.
- School systems have flexibility on the specific mechanism used to prohibit.
- School boards have until 90 days after effective date (effective June 20) to adopt cell phone policy.
- TEA must provide a model policy.

# HB 1481

## Definition of Personal Communication Device

In this section, "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 device capable of telecommunication or digital communication

# HB 1481 - Requirements

The policy may provide for the school district or open-enrollment charter school to:

1. Comply with this section by:
  - a. prohibiting a student from bringing a personal communication device on school property; **or**
  - b. designating a method for the storage of a student's personal communication device while the student is on school property during the school day

The policy must authorize the use of a personal communication device if:

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.

# Draft Policy FNCE(LOCAL)

Bryan ISD  
021902

STUDENT CONDUCT PERSONAL ~~TELECOMMUNICATIONS~~ COMMUNICATION DEVICES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES FNCE (LOCAL)

**PROPOSED REVISIONS**

**Note:** For searches of personal ~~telecommunications~~ communication devices or other personal electronic devices, see FNF.

**Personal Use Telecommunications Communication Devices**

~~A student shall not use a personal communication device on school property during the school day. While on school property, the student shall store any personal communication device in accordance with administrative regulations.~~

~~A student who violates this policy or any regulations shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the Board-adopted Student Code of Conduct.~~

~~An authorized District employee may confiscate a student's personal telecommunications communication device, including a mobile telephone, that is used in violation of this policy or any applicable campus rules/regulations.~~

~~A confiscated personal telecommunications device shall be released for a fee determined by the Board. In accordance with the student handbook, the student or the student's parents may retrieve the device after paying the fee.~~

~~If a personal telecommunications communication device is not retrieved, the District shall dispose of the device after providing the notice required by law.~~

**Other Electronic Devices**

~~Guidelines regarding other personal electronic devices shall be addressed in the student handbook.~~

**Instructional Use**

~~A student shall obtain prior approval before using personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for on-campus instructional purposes. The student shall also acknowledge receipt and understanding of applicable regulations and shall sign the appropriate user agreements. [See CQ]~~

**Exceptions**

~~A student shall be authorized to use a personal communication device on school property during the school day only under the following circumstances:~~

- ~~The student's use is necessary for implementation of the student's individualized education program, a 504 plan, or a similar program or plan;~~
- ~~The student's use is required due to a documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician; or~~

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STUDENT CONDUCT ~~TELECOMMUNICATIONS~~ COMMUNICATION DEVICES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES FNCE (LOCAL)

- ~~The student's use is necessary for implementation of the student's individualized education program, a 504 plan, or a similar program or plan;~~
- ~~The student's use is required due to a documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician; or~~
- The student's use is necessary to comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as part of the District or campus safety protocols.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations to implement this policy.

Annually, the Superintendent shall report to the Board on the implementation and compliance of this policy.

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FNCE(LOCAL)-A to S

- Student Communication Devices must be turned off and stored (backpack, purse, etc.) during the school day and may not be seen or used.
  - The school day encompasses the first bell to the last bell.
- Devices may be used before and after school.

# HB 1481 & the Student Code of Conduct

Since HB 1481 has been signed into law, it will also appear as a section in the Student Code of Conduct.

- The district is working with campus administrators, legal counsel, and the Texas Education Agency to develop these guidelines and parameters.

# HB 1481 Timeline

**June 20, 2025:** Governor Abbott signs HB 1481

**July 2025:** Refinement of the Student Code of Conduct

**July 21, 2025:** Consider Changes to Board Policy

**July-August 2025:** Communication to Students and Parents

**August 4, 2025:** Consider Student Code of Conduct

# HB 1481

## Update

