

House Bill 1481

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- "...approve a written policy prohibiting a student from using a personal communication device **while on school property during the school day.**"
- Prohibit students from bringing devices to school OR
- Designate a method for the storage
- "The policy must establish disciplinary measures..."
- Accommodations for IEPs, 504s, medical needs, safety
- Model policy language published by TEA (August)



What is a “personal communication device?”

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In this section “personal communication device” means a **telephone, cell phone such as smartphone or flip phone, tablet, smartwatch, radio device, paging device, or any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.** The term does not include an electronic device provided to a student by a school district or open-enrollment charter school.

Excerpt from House Bill 1481



Policy Language (Draft)

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Use of Telecommunications Device

All telecommunications devices must remain turned off during the instructional school day and stowed off the student in a backpack, purse, locker, or other designated storage area. Stowed devices should be turned off.



Policy Language (Draft)

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Consequences for Unauthorized Use of Telecommunications Device

The telecommunications device(s) will be confiscated with each offense, held in the school office, and returned to the student at the end of that school day. Campus administrators have the discretion to determine additional consequence(s) based on the number of offenses, grade levels, and Texas Education Code Chapter 37 factors.



Implications

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- Parent and guardian communication
 - Call and/or email campus during the school day
- Staff communication
- Emergency situations
- Anonymous reporting



Next Steps

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- **July**

- Collaboration with principals on discipline measures and communication with families, staff
- Develop communication and resources

- **August**

- Model language from TEA
- Adopt policy and update Student Code of Conduct

