



O'DONNELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-2027

Effective June 20, 2025, Texas House Bill 1481, enacted during the 89th Legislative Session, requires all public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to adopt policies that prohibit student use of any personal communication devices on school property during the school day.

Under the law:

- "Personal communication devices" include cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, earbuds, gaming devices, paging devices, smart glasses, or any device capable of telecommunication or digital communication. District-issued devices used solely for instructional purposes are exempt.
- The "school day" spans from the first bell to the last bell—including passing periods, lunch, and any extra-classroom instructional time.
- Students may bring devices to school, but they must be completely powered off and securely stored (e.g. in a locker, backpack, or school-issued pouch) for the entire day to avoid disruption.

Exceptions are allowed only when the device is:

- Required as part of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 accommodation
- Needed due to a documented medical directive from a licensed Texas physician
- Necessary to comply with a legal health or safety requirement or a district's emergency protocol

Disciplinary actions will be as follows:

1st offense- confiscated, parent contact, given back to the student at the end of the day
2nd offense- confiscated, parent contact, parent must pick up at end of the day
3rd offense and beyond- confiscated, parent contact, parent pick up at end of day, office referral

*If a student refuses to give the phone to the teacher, the student will be sent to office and further disciplinary actions will be taken.

