

## Sidney ISD Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices Policy

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House Bill 1481 was passed during the 89th Texas Legislative Session and signed into law by Governor Abbott as part of a statewide initiative to promote focused learning environments, reduce distractions in classrooms, and limit cyberbullying and social media misuse during school hours. Texas House Bill 1481 requires all school systems to adopt and implement a policy **prohibiting the use of** personal communication devices by students on school property during the school day.

The law takes effect for the 2025-2026 school year and requires public school districts across the state to prohibit students from using personal electronic communication devices that can send or receive data on school property during the school day, including during passing periods and at lunch.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cell Phones
- Smart Watches
- Fitness Trackers with messaging capabilities
- Bluetooth Earbuds or Headphones
- Tablets and Personal Computers
- Gaming Devices
- Two-Way Radios
- Pagers
- Any other device capable of telecommunication or digital communication

### **(ALL grades) \*Policy goes in effect on the first day of school**

Cell phones will be collected at the beginning of 1st period and safely stored until the end of the school day. The phones will be returned to students accordingly at the end of the school day.

Students must either leave their personal electronic communication devices in their vehicle, if applicable, or turn the device into the designated area in the classroom to be collected. The phones will be carefully collected and taken to a designated secure area.

To ensure compliance with this law, Sidney ISD will enforce the following **consequences for violations**:

- **1st Offense**: The device will be confiscated. The student will receive a warning, and the device will be returned to the student at the end of the day.
- **2nd Offense**: The device will be confiscated and will only be returned to a parent or guardian after the end of the school day.
- **3rd and Subsequent Offenses**: The device will be confiscated, returned to a parent or guardian after the end of the school day, and the student will be assigned in-school suspension.

*Exceptions can be made for students with documented medical needs, special education supports, or other legal accommodations related to health and safety.*

*Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student's parent will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE for more information.]*

*The use of cell phones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.*

*In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See Searches on page and policy FNF for more information.]*

*The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen electronic devices.*