

Calls for Cell Phone Ban in Schools Answered

On February 3, the Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation to implement a bell to bell cell phone ban in all school entities. The vote for [Senate Bill 1014](#) was 46-1. The ban will go into effect in the 2026-27 school year.

According to the legislation, all school entities are required to adopt policies that will prohibit the use of a mobile device during the school day while on school property; and establish the manner in which a student's possession of a mobile device is to be restricted during the school day while on school property. The policy shall include appropriate enforcement and oversight provisions to ensure compliance at a school building.

The bill also requires a parental notification at the beginning of each school year and for new enrollments. The notification must identify “the methods for a parent or legal guardian to contact their child during the school day and information on how to sign up for emergency notifications.”

“Methods for a parent or legal guardian to contact their child during the school day may include, but not be limited to, the school building phone number or an electronic mail address. The school entity shall ensure that any method of contact provided to parents and legal guardians under this paragraph is staffed during the school day.”

There are several potential exemptions from the ban including:

- Student medical conditions documented by a medical provider.
- Students with an individualized education program or 504 service agreement in which a mobile device is part of the accommodations or services provided to the student.
- Students who are English language learners and use a mobile device for translation or other English as a second language purposes.
- When students are instructed to use a mobile by a teacher as an instructional tool with the approval of a school building principal, when a school-issued device is insufficient or unavailable for the instructional purposes needed by the teacher.
- If a principal determines that the use of a mobile device is necessary for instructional purposes.
- A chief school administrator or a designee may approve an exception if the request for the exception is made by a principal.

There are public participation requirements in advance of adoption of the policy and the final policy must be posted on the school entity's website. [You can read more about the legislation by clicking here.](#)

The bill now goes to the House Education Committee for consideration.