

## **School Cellphone Laws**

*(non-exhaustive list)*

### **State Laws**

- Alabama:
  - [§ 16-1-27](#):
    - school boards may permit students to “carry a pocket pager, cellular telephone, or other electronic communication device” on school property and may permit use when expressly permitted by school officials
    - violation results in suspension
  - \*Board of Education adopted [resolution](#) encouraging policies that limit use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices
- California:
  - [§ 48901.7](#)
    - On or before 7/1/26, requires governing body of a school district to adopt and update a policy “to limit or prohibit the use by its pupils of smartphones while the pupils are at a schoolsite or while the pupils are under the supervision and control “of school officials;
    - policy may include “enforcement mechanisms that limit access to smartphones;”
    - students cannot be prohibited from possessing or using a smartphone 1) in an emergency or in response to a perceived threat of danger; 2) when given permission by school officials; 3) when licensed physician determines smartphone is necessary for health or well-being of student; 4) use or possession of smartphone is part of IEP
    - section does not authorize monitoring, collecting, or otherwise accessing info related to student’s online activities
    - no definition section
  - [§ 48901.8](#)
    - School district governing bodies may adopt a policy “to limit or prohibit the use by its pupils of social media while the pupils are at a schoolsite or while the pupils are under the supervision and control” of school officials
    - Social media definition from Business and Professions Code, [§ 22675](#).
- Indiana: [IC 20-26-40.7](#)
  - Requires “each school corporation and charter school” to “adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that prohibits students from using a wireless communication device during instructional time; authorizes a teacher to allow student use for educational purposes during instructional time; and permits use in event of an emergency or to manage the student’s healthcare
  - Allows use of wireless communication devices if it’s part of a student’s IEP or 504 plan
  - Definition for “wireless device”

- [Florida:](#)
  - Requires public schools to provide instruction to students in grades 6-12 on the social, emotional, and physical effects of social media and make social media safety instructional material available online
  - Requires school boards to adopt an internet safety policy for student access to the internet by the school district
  - Requires school boards to prohibit and prevent students from accessing social media platforms on school district provided internet access, except when expressly allowed by a teacher for educational purposes
  - Requires school districts to prohibit use of TikTok on internet access provided by the school district or as a platform to communicate or promote any district or school activity
  - Prohibits students from using a wireless communication device during instructional time, except when directed by teacher for education purposes; requires teachers to designate an area for wireless communications devices during instructional time
- Kentucky: [KRS 158.165](#)
  - School districts required to develop a policy “regarding the possession and use of a personal telecommunications device by a student while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property”
  - Students who violate the policy “shall be subject to discipline as approved by board policy”
  - Definition of “personal telecommunications device”
- Louisiana: [R.S. 17.239](#)
  - Prohibits students from possession on their persons an electronic telecommunication device throughout the instructional day
  - Exception for IEP/504 plan that requires use of electronic telecommunication devices
  - “Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the use and operation by any person, including students, of any electronic telecommunication device described in Subsection A of this Section in the event of an emergency.”
- Minnesota: [121A.73](#)
  - Requires school districts and charter schools to adopt a policy on students’ possession and use of cell phones
  - Requires elementary and secondary schools principals associations to make best practices available “on a range of different strategies in order to minimize the impact of cell phones on student behavior, mental health, and academic attainment”
  - Principals Association [toolkit](#)

- Ohio: [§ 3313.753](#)
  - Requires school districts to adopt a policy “governing the use of cellular telephones by students during school hours” that emphasizes limited use, reduces cell phone related distractions in classrooms, and permit students to use “electronic communications devices for student learning or to address health concerns if determined appropriate by school board or if part of an IEP/504 plan
  - Definition of “electronic communications device”
- South Carolina: State Board of Education rules: [43-279](#) Minimum Standards of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Enforcement Procedures to be Implemented by Local School Districts
  - Possession of electronic communication devices inconsistent with school board policy included in “acts of behavioral misconduct—Level I”

#### **Laws—incentives**

- Pennsylvania: [1306-B\(J\)\(31\)](#)
  - Provides grant money for “cell phone lockable bags” for school districts with policies prohibiting the use of cell phones during the school day

#### **Executive action**

- Virginia:
  - [Executive Order No. 33](#)
    - Requires state officials to develop draft guidance for public schools to adopt policies and procedures establishing cell phone-free education, which should include ways for parents to communicate for “typical reasons”
    - Coordination within state government to “disseminate information regarding the effects of cell phone usage”
  - Dept. of Ed [Guidance](#)

#### **Guidance**

- Connecticut: State Board of Education [Position Statement and Policy Guidance](#)
- New Hampshire: Dept. of Ed [Policy on the Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices During Statewide Assessments by Students and Staff](#)
- New Jersey: Dept. Of Ed [Considerations for Establishing or Refining Policies for Cell Phone Use in Schools](#)
- Washington: Office of Superintendent of Public [Instruction’s Cell Phone and Smart Device Use in Schools](#)