

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 25-0491.01 Jacob Baus x2173

**HOUSE BILL 25-1135**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lukens and Bradfield**, Martinez, Phillips, Stewart K.

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING REQUIRING THE ADOPTION OF A POLICY REGARDING**  
102 **STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN SCHOOLS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires, on or before July 1, 2026, each institute charter school, district charter school, and a local board of education for its schools that are not district charter schools to adopt and implement a policy concerning student communication device possession and use during the school day. At a minimum, the policy must describe the prohibitions, if any, and exceptions, if any, regarding student

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

communication device possession and use during the school day.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds that:

4 (a) Research demonstrates that student cell phone use during the  
5 school day can create significant distractions that result in higher rates of  
6 cyberbullying and negative effects on student academic performance and  
7 mental health;

8 (b) Nearly two-thirds of teenagers in the United States report  
9 using social media every day, and one-third of teenagers report using  
10 social media "almost constantly";

11 (c) A longitudinal cohort study of American adolescents found  
12 that adolescents who spent more than 3 hours per day on social media had  
13 double the risk of experiencing poor mental health outcomes, including  
14 symptoms of anxiety and depression; and

15 (d) A majority of parents and legal guardians of adolescents report  
16 that they are worried that their child's use of social media could lead to  
17 poor mental health outcomes, including anxiety, depression, and low  
18 self-esteem; harassment or bullying; social and peer pressure; and  
19 exposure to explicit content.

20 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares it necessary for each  
21 charter school and local board of education to adopt and implement a  
22 policy concerning student communication device possession and use  
23 during the school day for the health, safety, and welfare of students.

24 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-1-148 as  
25 follows:

1           **22-1-148. Policy for student possession and use of**  
2 **communication devices - exemption - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS  
3 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

4           (a) (I) "COMMUNICATION DEVICE" MEANS A DEVICE THAT IS  
5 CAPABLE OF MAKING AND RECEIVING CALLS, SENDING AND RECEIVING  
6 TEXT MESSAGES, OR ACCESSING THE INTERNET.

7           (II) "COMMUNICATION DEVICE" INCLUDES A CELL PHONE OR  
8 WATCH WITH THE CAPABILITIES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a)(I) OF  
9 THIS SECTION.

10          (III) "COMMUNICATION DEVICE" DOES NOT INCLUDE A DEVICE,  
11 SUCH AS A LAPTOP OR TABLET, MADE AVAILABLE TO A STUDENT BY THE  
12 PUBLIC SCHOOL OR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

13          (b) "POLICY" MEANS THE POLICY CONCERNING STUDENT  
14 COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY  
15 ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS  
16 SECTION.

17          (c) "SCHOOL DAY" MEANS THE TIME PERIOD WHEN A PUBLIC  
18 SCHOOL PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS WHO ARE  
19 ENROLLED IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

20          (2) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, EACH INSTITUTE CHARTER  
21 SCHOOL, DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL, AND LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
22 FOR ITS SCHOOLS THAT ARE NOT DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOLS SHALL  
23 ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY CONCERNING STUDENT COMMUNICATION  
24 DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. AT A MINIMUM,  
25 THE POLICY MUST DESCRIBE:

26           (I) THE PROHIBITIONS, IF ANY, AND EXCEPTIONS, IF ANY,  
27 REGARDING STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION DURING THE

1 SCHOOL DAY; AND

2 (II) THE PROHIBITIONS, IF ANY, AND EXCEPTIONS, IF ANY, OF  
3 STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

4 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
5 POLICY MUST NOT PROHIBIT A STUDENT FROM POSSESSING AND USING A  
6 COMMUNICATION DEVICE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY IF THE POSSESSION  
7 AND USE ARE NECESSARY AS AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION  
8 ACCOMMODATION PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH  
9 DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ.; TO COMPLY  
10 WITH THE STUDENT'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM, AS DEFINED  
11 IN SECTION 22-20-103, OR THE STUDENT'S SECTION 504 PLAN, AS DEFINED  
12 IN SECTION 22-20-123; OR TO MONITOR OR ADDRESS THE STUDENT'S  
13 MEDICAL CONDITION.

14 (3) IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY, THE CHARTER SCHOOL OR LOCAL  
15 BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY:

16 (a) LIMIT STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE  
17 DURING THE SCHOOL DAY;

18 (b) CONSIDER STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND  
19 USE FOR PREVENTION OR RESPONSE TO AN EMERGENCY;

20 (c) CONSIDER PROHIBITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FOR STUDENT  
21 COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO  
22 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, AND HIGH  
23 SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THAT ARE APPROPRIATE BASED ON THE AGES AND  
24 DEVELOPMENTAL MATURITY OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND EACH TYPE OF  
25 SCHOOL;

26 (d) CONSIDER EXCEPTIONS THAT ALLOW STUDENT  
27 COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- 1 FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES OR TO MAKE A SAFE2TELL REPORT;
- 2 (e) CONSIDER COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND FROM STAFF;
- 3 (f) CONSIDER TRAINING NECESSARY FOR STAFF WHO ARE REQUIRED
- 4 TO UNDERSTAND AND ENFORCE THE POLICY AND STAFF'S CAPACITY TO
- 5 COMPLETE THE TRAINING OR ANY NEW REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH
- 6 THE POLICY;
- 7 (g) CONSIDER CONSULTING WITH STAFF WHO ARE OR A LOCAL
- 8 EDUCATION ASSOCIATION THAT IS REQUIRED TO UNDERSTAND AND
- 9 ENFORCE THE POLICY PRIOR TO ITS IMPLEMENTATION; AND
- 10 (h) CONSIDER UNINTENDED BURDENS, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL
- 11 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE POLICY.

12 (4) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, EACH CHARTER SCHOOL AND

13 LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL POST ITS POLICY ON ITS WEBSITE.

14 (5) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OR

15 LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION IF THE CHARTER SCHOOL OR LOCAL BOARD

16 OF EDUCATION ADOPTS AND IMPLEMENTS A POLICY REGARDING THE

17 POSSESSION AND USE OF COMMUNICATION DEVICES OR CELL PHONES ON OR

18 BEFORE AUGUST 31, 2025.

19 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

20 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the

21 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except

22 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V

23 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this

24 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take

25 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

26 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the

27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.