

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

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 25-0491.01 Jacob Baus x2173

HOUSE BILL 25-1135

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lukens and Bradfield, Martinez, Phillips, Stewart K.

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Frizell,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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.

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 21, 2025

communication device possession and use during the school day.

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 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 (3)(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) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 5, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT OF
21 EDUCATION SHALL MAKE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE A COLLECTION OF
22 ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES AND RESEARCH THAT MAY ASSIST IN THE
23 DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

24 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR
25 THE DEAF AND THE BLIND, AND EACH INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL,
26 DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL, AND LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR ITS
27 SCHOOLS THAT ARE NOT DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOLS SHALL ADOPT AND

1 IMPLEMENT A POLICY CONCERNING STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE
2 POSSESSION AND USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. AT A MINIMUM, THE
3 POLICY MUST DESCRIBE:

4 (I) THE PROHIBITIONS, IF ANY, AND EXCEPTIONS, IF ANY,
5 REGARDING STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION DURING THE
6 SCHOOL DAY; AND

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

9 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE
10 POLICY MUST NOT PROHIBIT A STUDENT FROM POSSESSING AND USING A
11 COMMUNICATION DEVICE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY IF THE POSSESSION
12 AND USE ARE NECESSARY AS AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
13 ACCOMMODATION PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH
14 DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ.; TO COMPLY
15 WITH THE STUDENT'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM, AS DEFINED
16 IN SECTION 22-20-103, OR THE STUDENT'S SECTION 504 PLAN, AS DEFINED
17 IN SECTION 22-20-123; OR TO MONITOR OR ADDRESS THE STUDENT'S
18 MEDICAL CONDITION.

19 (4) IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY, THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE
20 DEAF AND THE BLIND, CHARTER SCHOOL, OR LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
21 MAY:

22 (a) LIMIT STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE
23 DURING THE SCHOOL DAY;

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

26 (c) CONSIDER PROHIBITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FOR STUDENT
27 COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO

1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, AND HIGH
2 SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THAT ARE APPROPRIATE BASED ON THE AGES AND
3 DEVELOPMENTAL MATURITY OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND EACH TYPE OF
4 SCHOOL;

5 (d) CONSIDER EXCEPTIONS THAT ALLOW STUDENT
6 COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY
7 FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES OR TO MAKE A SAFE2TELL REPORT;

8 (e) CONSIDER COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND FROM STAFF;

9 (f) CONSIDER TRAINING NECESSARY FOR STAFF WHO ARE REQUIRED
10 TO UNDERSTAND AND ENFORCE THE POLICY AND STAFF'S CAPACITY TO
11 COMPLETE THE TRAINING OR ANY NEW REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH
12 THE POLICY;

13 (g) CONSIDER CONSULTING WITH STAFF WHO ARE OR A LOCAL
14 EDUCATION ASSOCIATION THAT IS REQUIRED TO UNDERSTAND AND
15 ENFORCE THE POLICY PRIOR TO ITS IMPLEMENTATION; ■■■

16 (h) CONSIDER UNINTENDED BURDENS, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL
17 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE POLICY;

18 (i) CONSIDER ANY AVAILABLE EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCES AND
19 RESEARCH CONCERNING STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION
20 AND USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY; AND

21 (j) CONSIDER STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND
22 USE ON AND OFF OF SCHOOL GROUNDS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY,
23 INCLUDING APPLICABILITY FOR AN ONLINE SCHOOL, ONLINE PROGRAM, OR
24 ONLINE COURSE.

25 (5) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE
26 DEAF AND THE BLIND, AND EACH CHARTER SCHOOL AND LOCAL BOARD OF
27 EDUCATION SHALL POST ITS POLICY ON ITS WEBSITE.

1 (6) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR
2 THE DEAF AND THE BLIND, A CHARTER SCHOOL, OR A LOCAL BOARD OF
3 EDUCATION IF THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND, THE
4 CHARTER SCHOOL, OR THE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTS AND
5 IMPLEMENTS A POLICY REGARDING THE POSSESSION AND USE OF
6 COMMUNICATION DEVICES OR CELL PHONES ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31,
7 2025.

8 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
9 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
10 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
11 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
12 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
13 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
14 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
15 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
16 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.