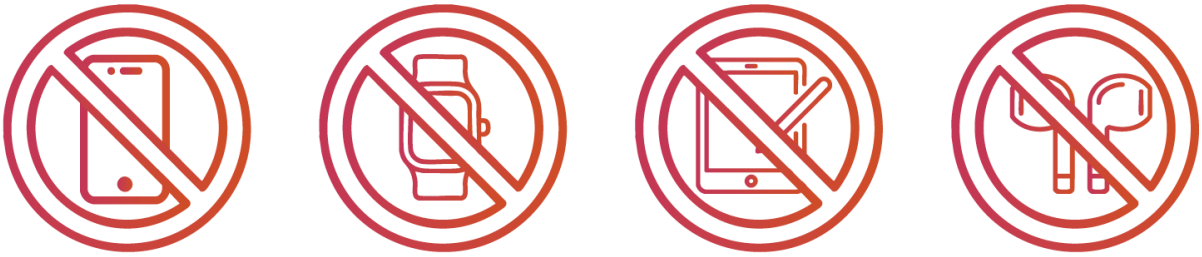
NEW STATE LAW: HB 1481

Effective August 13, 2025, Texas House Bill 1481 prohibits student use of personal communication devices during the school day.



Texas House Bill 1481, effective this school year (2025-26), requires all public schools in Texas to adopt policies prohibiting students from using personal communication devices during the school day, while on school property. This includes, but is not limited to, devices such as cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, and any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.

Katy ISD is committed to ensuring all students receive a high-quality education with unparalleled learning experiences. The district will comply with the new law beginning on the first day of school, Aug. 13, 2025, to provide students with the best school day environment to ensure academic success.

Important points of the policy Katy ISD will follow to comply with HB 1481:

House Bill 1481 Requirements

- Students are prohibited from using personal communication devices during the instructional day, beginning with the first bell through dismissal. This includes passing periods and lunches.
- Students may use personal communication devices before the instructional day begins and after dismissal.
- Secondary students may use personal communication devices when riding district transportation before and after school.
- Secondary students, when attending extracurricular student activities, competitions or events, may use their personal communication devices.

Storage of devices: Students are permitted to bring devices to school, but they must be powered off and stored securely and out of sight, in a backpack.

Special circumstances: Exceptions are made for devices required for the implementation of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 plan, or for medical needs documented by a physician. Parents may discuss their child's special circumstances with their child's campus administrator.

Communication with students: Katy ISD understands that in case of an emergency or urgent communication need, parents will need to communicate with their students. In case of urgent communication needs, parents and guardians may contact the school office, where staff will assist in delivering messages. Students in 5th through 12th grade may also be contacted via their district-issued Outlook Email which is accessible on their district-issued Chromebook.

Personal property: Students are responsible for their personal devices. Katy ISD shall not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal communication or electronic devices brought on district property, district events or buses.

Disciplinary action: Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Katy ISD Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct, which will result in consequences that may include confiscation of device and parent notification.

Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct
Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct (Spanish)

Effective August 13, 2025, Katy ISD will enforce Texas House Bill 1481, which prohibits student use of personal communication devices during the instructional day.

Katy ISD's Personal Communication Devices guidelines can also be found here.

What's Not Allowed?

Cell phones
Smartwatches
Tablets
Any device capable of digital communication

What is the student's responsibility?

Devices must be powered off and stored out of sight (e.g., in backpacks).
No use during instructional day beginning with the first bell and through dismissal. This includes passing periods and lunches.

Are there exceptions?

Exceptions include devices required for an IEP, 504 Plan, or documented medical need. Parents may contact their child's campus administrator.

How do I reach my child?

Call the school office.

Reminder: students in 5th through 12th grade can be contacted via their district-issued Outlook Email which is accessible on their district-issued Chromebook.

If a violation of state law HB 1481 occurs, will there be consequences?

Yes, the consequences will be assessed in compliance with the district's Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct.

Katy ISD understands that this new mandate from the state legislature may require adjustments for students and families, and we are here to assist through the implementation. Our goal is for all students to receive an unparalleled and safe learning experience to prepare them for future success.