

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

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0491.01 Jacob Baus x2173

HOUSE BILL 25-1135

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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
3rd Reading Unamended
February 25, 2025

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:

12 (A) MADE AVAILABLE TO A STUDENT BY THE SCHOOL OR THE
13 SCHOOL DISTRICT; OR

14 (B) USED BY THE STUDENT AS REQUIRED BY THE SCHOOL OR THE
15 SCHOOL DISTRICT.

16 (b) "POLICY" MEANS THE POLICY CONCERNING STUDENT
17 COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY
18 ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS
19 SECTION.

20 (c) "SCHOOL DAY" MEANS THE TIME PERIOD WHEN A PUBLIC
21 SCHOOL PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS WHO ARE
22 ENROLLED IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

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

27 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR

1 THE DEAF AND THE BLIND, AND EACH INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL,
2 DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL, AND LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR ITS
3 SCHOOLS THAT ARE NOT DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOLS SHALL ADOPT AND
4 IMPLEMENT A POLICY CONCERNING STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE
5 POSSESSION AND USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. AT A MINIMUM, THE
6 POLICY MUST DESCRIBE:

7 (I) THE PROHIBITIONS, IF ANY, AND EXCEPTIONS, IF ANY,
8 REGARDING STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION DURING THE
9 SCHOOL DAY; AND

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

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

22 (4) IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY, THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE
23 DEAF AND THE BLIND, CHARTER SCHOOL, OR LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
24 MAY:

25 (a) LIMIT STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE
26 DURING THE SCHOOL DAY;

27 (b) CONSIDER STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND

1 USE FOR PREVENTION OR RESPONSE TO AN EMERGENCY;

2 (c) CONSIDER PROHIBITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FOR STUDENT
3 COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND USE THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO
4 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, AND HIGH
5 SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THAT ARE APPROPRIATE BASED ON THE AGES AND
6 DEVELOPMENTAL MATURITY OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND EACH TYPE OF
7 SCHOOL;

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

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

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

16 (g) CONSIDER CONSULTING WITH STAFF WHO ARE OR A LOCAL
17 EDUCATION ASSOCIATION THAT IS REQUIRED TO UNDERSTAND AND
18 ENFORCE THE POLICY PRIOR TO ITS IMPLEMENTATION; █

19 (h) CONSIDER UNINTENDED BURDENS, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL
20 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE POLICY; █

21 (i) CONSIDER ANY AVAILABLE EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCES AND
22 RESEARCH CONCERNING STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION
23 AND USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY; ==

24 (j) CONSIDER STUDENT COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION AND
25 USE ON AND OFF OF SCHOOL GROUNDS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY,
26 INCLUDING APPLICABILITY FOR AN ONLINE SCHOOL, ONLINE PROGRAM, OR
27 ONLINE COURSE; AND

1 (k) CONSIDER ISSUES RELATED TO MEDIA LITERACY AND SOCIAL
2 AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.

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

6 (6) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR
7 THE DEAF AND THE BLIND, A CHARTER SCHOOL, OR A LOCAL BOARD OF
8 EDUCATION IF THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND, THE
9 CHARTER SCHOOL, OR THE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTS AND
10 IMPLEMENTS A POLICY REGARDING THE POSSESSION AND USE OF
11 COMMUNICATION DEVICES OR CELL PHONES ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31,
12 2025.

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