

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1276

By: Caldwell (Chad)

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; requiring district boards of education to adopt a policy prohibiting student cell phone and personal electronic device use under certain circumstances; requiring exceptions for emergencies; allowing board approval to opt out of prohibition; requiring annual approval of alternative policies; defining terms; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-162 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Before the start of the 2025-2026 school year, each school district board of education shall adopt a policy to prohibit the use of cell phones and personal electronic devices by students enrolled in the district during the entirety of the school day and while present on school grounds.

1 B. District policies described in subsection A of this section  
2 shall incorporate provisions for emergency use including, but not  
3 limited to, use to support medical issues documented by a licensed  
4 medical professional.

5 C. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, a school  
6 district board of education may vote to adopt a policy allowing  
7 student cell phone or personal electronic device usage during the  
8 school day. Any such policy shall be reviewed and approved by the  
9 district board on an annual basis.

10 D. For purposes of this section:

11 1. "Cell phone" means a portable wireless telephone device that  
12 is designed to send or receive transmissions through a cellular  
13 radiotelephone service;

14 2. "Personal electronic device" means any personal device  
15 capable of connecting to a smart phone, the Internet, a cellular or  
16 Wi-Fi network, or directly connecting to another similar device.  
17 Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to, smart  
18 watches, smart headphones, laptops, tablets, and smart glasses.  
19 Personal electronic devices shall not include devices that are  
20 school-issued or school-approved and specifically limited for use in  
21 classroom instruction; and

22 3. "School day" means the entirety of the day, from the first  
23 bell indicating the beginning of classroom instruction through the  
24 final bell indicating the end of classroom instruction.

1       SECTION 2.   This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

2       SECTION 3.   It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
3 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
4 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
5 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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7       60-1-12550       SW       02/10/25