

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## SENATE BILL

No. 1014 Session of  
2025

INTRODUCED BY ROBINSON, HUGHES, SANTARSIERO, PENNYCUICK,  
HAYWOOD, COLLETT, J. WARD, ARGALL, KANE, FONTANA, COSTA,  
STEFANO, BROWN, VOGEL, MALONE, PISCIOTTANO, FLYNN, BOSCOLA,  
LANGERHOLC, KEARNEY AND MASTRIANO, OCTOBER 10, 2025

SENATOR CULVER, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, DECEMBER 9, 2025

## AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in student supports, providing for  
6 bell-to-bell phone-free policy.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 1314-A. Bell-to-bell phone-free policy.--(a) No  
13 later than the start of the 2026-2027 2027-2028 school year, the <--  
14 governing body of each school entity shall adopt a policy  
15 related to student possession and use of mobile devices during  
16 the school day while on school property.

17 (b) (1) Except as provided under subsection (c), consistent  
18 with the provisions of this section, the governing body of a  
19 school entity shall adopt a policy relating to mobile devices

1 and shall:

2 (i) prohibit the use of a mobile device during the school  
3 day while on school property; and

4 (ii) establish the manner in which a student's possession of  
5 a mobile device is to be restricted during the school day while  
6 on school property.

7 (2) The policy shall include appropriate enforcement and  
8 oversight provisions to ensure compliance at a school building.

9 (3) At the beginning of each school year and upon  
10 enrollment, each school entity shall provide written  
11 notification to parents and legal guardians of students enrolled  
12 in the school entity of the methods for a parent or legal  
13 guardian to contact their child during the school day and  
14 information on how to sign up for emergency notifications.  
15 Methods for a parent or legal guardian to contact their child  
16 during the school day may include, but not be limited to, the  
17 school building phone number or an electronic mail address. The  
18 school entity shall ensure that ~~the phone number is staffed.~~ ANY <--  
19 METHOD OF CONTACT PROVIDED TO PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS UNDER  
20 THIS PARAGRAPH IS STAFFED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

21 (c) A school entity's policy shall include exceptions to  
22 allow limited use of a mobile device during the school day by a  
23 student who:

24 (1) Requires a mobile device due to a student's medical  
25 condition, documented by a medical provider.

26 (2) Has an individualized education ~~plan~~ PROGRAM or 504 <--  
27 service agreement in which a mobile device is part of the  
28 accommodations or services provided to the student.

29 (3) Is an English learner and uses a mobile device for  
30 translation or other English as a second language purposes.

1     (4) Is instructed to do so by a teacher as an instructional  
2 tool with the approval of a school building principal, provided  
3 that:

4     (i) a school-issued device is insufficient or unavailable  
5 for the instructional purposes needed by the teacher;  
6     (ii) the principal determines that the use of the mobile  
7 device is necessary for instructional purposes; and  
8     (iii) the approval is for a limited circumstance and  
9 duration and does not permit the use of a mobile device as a  
10 regular part of instruction.

11     (d) Prior to the adoption by the governing body of a school  
12 entity's policy OR AMENDING AN EXISTING POLICY, the governing <--  
13 body of the school entity shall have a public comment period <--  
14 which shall provide for an opportunity for feedback from:

15     (1) ENSURE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, INCLUDING <--  
16 FEEDBACK FROM:

17     ~~(1) Parents~~ (I) PARENTS or legal guardians of students <--  
18 attending the school entity.; <--

19     ~~(2) Employees~~ (II) EMPLOYES and any employee organization <--  
20 representing employees of the school entity.; AND <--

21     (III) STUDENTS ATTENDING THE SCHOOL ENTITY; AND

22     (2) BE ENCOURAGED TO ENGAGE STUDENTS, PARENTS, LEGAL  
23 GUARDIANS, EMPLOYES, EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERS OF THE  
24 COMMUNITY IN A STAKEHOLDER PROCESS THROUGH WHICH THE GOVERNING  
25 BODY OF THE SCHOOL ENTITY MAY OBTAIN INPUT THAT THE GOVERNING  
26 BODY MAY INCORPORATE INTO THE SCHOOL ENTITY'S POLICY.

27     (e) The governing body of a school entity that adopted a  
28 policy relating to mobile devices prior to the effective date of  
29 this section shall, no later than the start of the 2026-2027 <--  
30 2027-2028 school year, amend the existing policy, if needed, to <--

comply with the requirements of this section.

(f) (1) Each school entity shall post the school entity's policy on the school entity's publicly accessible Internet website no later than five (5) business days after adoption. If a school entity amends the policy after adoption, the amended policy shall be posted on the school entity's publicly accessible Internet website within five (5) business days.

(2) No later than five (5) business days after posting a copy of the policy or amended policy as required under paragraph (1), a school entity shall submit documentation to the department verifying that a copy of the school entity's policy or amended policy is posted on the school entity's publicly accessible Internet website.

~~(g) (1) No later than August 1, 2028, and each August 1 thereafter, utilizing existing data available, including data from the Pennsylvania Youth Survey, the department shall report on the impact that implementation of bell-to-bell phone-free policies have on student discipline, mental health, school attendance and academic performance. The department shall make the report available on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.~~ <--

~~(2) The department shall post copies of each school entity's policy on its publicly accessible Internet website.~~

~~(h)~~ (G) As used in this section:

"504 service agreement" shall have the meaning as defined in section 1331.1(e).

"Department" shall mean the Department of Education of the Commonwealth.

"Employe organization" shall have the meaning given to it in section 1101-A.

1 "Individualized education ~~plan~~ PROGRAM" shall mean an <--  
2 individualized education ~~plan~~ PROGRAM developed in accordance <--  
3 with 22 Pa. Code § 14.131 (relating to IEP) and the Individuals  
4 with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 91-230, 20 U.S.C. §  
5 1400 et seq.).

6 "Mobile device" shall mean a personal mobile telephone or  
7 other portable electronic device capable of connecting to the  
8 Internet and enabling the user to access content on the  
9 Internet, that is not owned by a school entity or issued by a  
10 school entity to a student. A mobile device shall include a  
11 device with which a user could engage in a call; write, send or  
12 receive a message; send or receive data or an image; record,  
13 play or edit audio or video data; play a game; or watch a video.  
14 The term does not include a portable device which meets the  
15 definition of a medical device under 21 U.S.C. § 321 (relating  
16 to definitions generally).

17 "Policy" shall mean a policy adopted by the governing body of  
18 a school entity under subsection (a) or amended under subsection  
19 (e) related to student possession and use of mobile devices  
20 during the school day while on school property.

21 "School day" shall mean the entirety of every instructional  
22 day during all instructional and non-instructional time, as  
23 determined by the governing body of the school entity, including  
24 homeroom periods, lunch, recess and the time moving between  
25 classes.

26 "School entity" shall mean a school district, intermediate  
27 unit, area career and technical school, charter school, regional  
28 charter school or cyber charter school operating in this  
29 Commonwealth.

30 "School property" shall mean any public school grounds or

1 school-sponsored activity.

2       Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.