



In accordance with Texas House Bill 1481, Leonard ISD is updating its cell phone policy to align with this new state law.

Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, HB 1481 takes effect across the state regarding student cell phone use at all schools. This law mandates that school districts must limit student use of personal communication devices during the instructional day. In compliance with this law, Leonard ISD will require all students to power them off and store them away while on campus or leave them at home. Personal devices will not be permitted for use at any time during school hours. This legislation aims to reduce distractions, safeguard student privacy and enhance the overall learning environment.

What is a Personal Communication Device according to HB 1481?

- Cell Phone
- Smartwatch or Fitness Tracker with messaging capabilities
- Tablet or Personal Computer
- Bluetooth, Earbuds or Headphones
- Pager or other electronic device capable of transmitting or receiving data that is not provided by the school for instructional purposes

Leonard ISD Policy which becomes effective on the first day of the 25-26 school year states:

- If brought to school, students must keep these devices powered off and stored securely during the school day (backpack, locker, purse, etc.)
- Phone use is not allowed between class periods, break, lunches, during class or any other time during the school day
- More information and consequences for use of personal devices will be provided in the student handbook and through other modes of communication once TEA provides final guidance as the new law requires

Exceptions - HB 1481 allows for the following exceptions - -

- A student has an IEP or 504 Plan that requires device access
- A physician's order is on file for a medical need
- Other health or safety need as required by law
- It is a school-issued device specifically for instruction/learning such as the Chromebook devices that are issued by the campus.