

## CELL PHONE BILL UPDATE

Good Afternoon,

We've received several questions about HB 2277, the cell phone bill, and wanted to provide some clarity. For now, we recommend holding off on making large purchases of bags or boxes to secure student cell phones or finalizing your new written policy.

Our goal is to ease the implementation of this bill while ensuring school districts avoid unnecessary scrutiny for not adhering to the new law. While a few Senators have stated their intent was to allow students to leave cell phones in their backpacks or lockers, the language of the bill specifies:

(2) require that all personal electronic communication devices be turned off and securely stored away from the student's person in an inaccessible location during the school day;

(3) authorize students not to bring personal electronic communication devices to school by leaving such devices at a house or in a vehicle, even if such vehicle is located on the school premises;

It's challenging to argue that a student's backpack or locker is truly inaccessible during the school day, especially when the bill explicitly designates a student's car as an appropriate storage location because it is inaccessible.

This bill does not impose direct consequences on administrators, and we want to keep it that way. We're working toward a formal agreement that allows backpacks or lockers to serve as temporary alternatives until the bill is revised. When discussing this with your board, please provide them with the facts and help guide them toward an informed decision. The worst-case scenario might be a negative headline or an email from KPI, but transparency and collaboration will help navigate this process effectively.

We're committed to keeping you updated and hope to have more information by the end of the week.

Thank you for your patience and partnership as we work through this together.

G.A.

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