

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

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

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 2027-2028 school year, the governing
14 body of each school entity shall adopt a policy related to
15 student possession and use of mobile devices during the school
16 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) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE A <--
8 SCHOOL ENTITY TO TAKE POSSESSION OF A STUDENT'S MOBILE DEVICE.
9 IF THE GOVERNING BODY OF A SCHOOL ENTITY ADOPTS A POLICY THAT
10 PERMITS AN EMPLOYE OF A SCHOOL ENTITY TO TAKE POSSESSION OF A
11 STUDENT'S MOBILE DEVICE, THE SCHOOL ENTITY OR SCHOOL EMPLOYE
12 SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGED OR LOST MOBILE DEVICE IF THE
13 SCHOOL EMPLOYE ACTED IN GOOD FAITH TO SECURE THE MOBILE DEVICE
14 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHOOL ENTITY'S POLICY.

15 ~~(2)~~ (3) The policy shall include appropriate enforcement and <--
16 oversight provisions to ensure compliance at a school building.

17 ~~(3)~~ (4) At the beginning of each school year and upon <--
18 enrollment, each school entity shall provide written
19 notification to parents and legal guardians of students enrolled
20 in the school entity of the methods for a parent or legal
21 guardian to contact their child during the school day and
22 information on how to sign up for emergency notifications.
23 Methods for a parent or legal guardian to contact their child
24 during the school day may include, but not be limited to, the
25 school building phone number or an electronic mail address. The
26 school entity shall ensure that any method of contact provided
27 to parents and legal guardians under this paragraph is staffed
28 during the school day.

29 (c) A school entity's policy shall include exceptions to
30 allow limited use of a mobile device during the school day by a

1 student who:

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

4 (2) Has an individualized education program or 504 service
5 agreement in which a mobile device is part of the accommodations
6 or services provided to the student.

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

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

12 (i) a school-issued device is insufficient or unavailable
13 for the instructional purposes needed by the teacher;

14 (ii) the principal determines that the use of the mobile
15 device is necessary for instructional purposes; and

16 (iii) the approval is for a limited circumstance and
17 duration and does not permit the use of a mobile device as a
18 regular part of instruction.

19 (D) A SCHOOL ENTITY'S POLICY MAY ALLOW A CHIEF SCHOOL <--
20 ADMINISTRATOR OR A DESIGNEE TO APPROVE AN EXCEPTION NOT
21 AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) IF THE REQUEST FOR THE EXCEPTION
22 IS MADE BY A PRINCIPAL OF A SCHOOL BUILDING. THE FOLLOWING SHALL
23 APPLY TO THE REQUESTED EXCEPTION:

24 (1) THE PRINCIPAL MUST SUBMIT A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR THE
25 EXCEPTION TO THE CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OR A DESIGNEE. THE
26 REQUEST SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

27 (I) THE PURPOSE OF THE EXCEPTION.

28 (II) THE DATE, TIME AND DURATION OF THE EXCEPTION.

29 (III) A DESCRIPTION OF TO WHOM THE EXCEPTION SHALL APPLY.

30 (2) THE EXCEPTION REQUESTED MAY NOT EXCEED ONE SCHOOL DAY.

1 (3) THE REQUEST SHALL BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE SCHOOL DAY
2 ON WHICH THE EXCEPTION IS TO OCCUR.

3 (4) THE CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OR A DESIGNEE MAY APPROVE
4 OR DENY A PRINCIPAL'S REQUEST.

5 ~~(d)~~ (E) Prior to the adoption by the governing body of a <--
6 school entity's policy or amending an existing policy, the
7 governing body of the school entity shall:

8 (1) ensure the opportunity for public comment, including
9 feedback from:

10 (i) parents or legal guardians of students attending the
11 school entity;

12 (ii) employees and any employe organization representing
13 employees of the school entity; and

14 (iii) students attending the school entity; and

15 (2) be encouraged to engage students, parents, legal
16 guardians, employees, employe organizations and members of the
17 community in a stakeholder process through which the governing
18 body of the school entity may obtain input that the governing
19 body may incorporate into the school entity's policy.

20 ~~(e)~~ (F) The governing body of a school entity that adopted a <--
21 policy relating to mobile devices prior to the effective date of
22 this section shall, no later than the start of the 2027-2028
23 school year, amend the existing policy, if needed, to comply
24 with the requirements of this section.

25 ~~(f)~~ (G) (1) Each school entity shall post the school <--
26 entity's policy on the school entity's publicly accessible
27 Internet website no later than five (5) business days after
28 adoption. If a school entity amends the policy after adoption,
29 the amended policy shall be posted on the school entity's
30 publicly accessible Internet website within five (5) business

1 days.

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

8 ~~(g)~~ (H) As used in this section: <--

9 "504 service agreement" shall have the meaning as defined in
10 section 1331.1(e).

11 "CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR" SHALL MEAN THE: <--

12 (1) SUPERINTENDENT OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT;

13 (2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL; OR

14 (3) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF A CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER
15 SCHOOL, REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OR MULTIPLE CHARTER SCHOOL
16 ORGANIZATION.

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

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

21 "Individualized education program" shall mean an
22 individualized education program developed in accordance with 22
23 Pa. Code § 14.131 (relating to IEP) and the Individuals with
24 Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 91-230, 20 U.S.C. § 1400
25 et seq.).

26 "Mobile device" shall mean a personal mobile telephone or
27 other portable electronic device capable of connecting to the
28 Internet and enabling the user to access content on the
29 Internet, that is not owned by a school entity or issued by a
30 school entity to a student. A mobile device shall include a

1 device with which a user could engage in a call; write, send or
2 receive a message; send or receive data or an image; record,
3 play or edit audio or video data; play a game; or watch a video.
4 The term does not include a portable device which meets the
5 definition of a medical device under 21 U.S.C. § 321 (relating
6 to definitions generally).

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

11 "PRINCIPAL" SHALL MEAN A BUILDING PRINCIPAL, AN ASSISTANT <--
12 PRINCIPAL, A VICE PRINCIPAL, A SUPERVISOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
13 OR A DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

14 "School day" shall mean the entirety of every instructional
15 day during all instructional and non-instructional time, as
16 determined by the governing body of the school entity, including
17 homeroom periods, lunch, recess and the time moving between
18 classes.

19 "School entity" shall mean a school district, intermediate
20 unit, area career and technical school, charter school, regional
21 charter school or cyber charter school operating in this
22 Commonwealth.

23 ~~"School property" shall mean any public school grounds or~~ <--
24 ~~school sponsored activity.~~

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.