

**First Regular Session
Seventy-Seventh General Assembly
STATE OF SAN ANDREAS**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0719.01 Payton Gibson x2365

HOUSE BILL 26-014

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Stimpson

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Mitchell, Morton

House Committees

Not assigned

Senate Committees

Not assigned

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE USE OF PERSONAL DEVICES IN EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <https://saleg.uscgov.com>)

This bill prohibits the use of personal electronic devices by students during the school day in compulsory education settings, beginning in the 2026–2027 academic year. The bill is intended to reduce classroom distractions, improve student engagement, and support effective instructional environments by limiting the use of personal devices such as cellular phones and smart watches during instructional time.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

Under the bill, students enrolled in compulsory education may not use personal electronic devices while on school grounds or participating in school-sponsored instructional activities. Devices must be powered off and stored in accordance with school district policies during instructional hours. Schools retain authority to determine storage procedures and enforcement methods consistent with statewide requirements.

The legislation allows for several exceptions, including the use of school-issued or authorized devices for educational purposes, accommodations required under individualized education programs or medical needs, and limited use authorized by teachers or administrators. Emergency use for safety purposes is also permitted.

The Department of Education is directed to provide implementation guidance to school districts, which must adopt or update local policies prior to the start of the 2026–2027 academic year.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San*
2 *Andreas:*
3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.** This bill shall be known and cited
4 as the “Device-Free Learning Act.” **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE**
5 **FINDINGS AND INTENT.** (a) The General Assembly finds that
6 excessive use of personal electronic devices in educational
7 settings has been shown to disrupt instruction, reduce student
8 engagement, and negatively impact academic outcomes. (b)
9 Teachers and school administrators require clear and consistent
10 policies to maintain effective classroom environments free from
11 unnecessary distractions. (c) Personal electronic devices,
12 including cellular phones and similar communication devices,
13 may interfere with student learning and social development during
14 instructional time. (d) Schools retain responsibility to provide
15 appropriate educational technology necessary for instruction. (e)
16 It is the intent of the General Assembly to prohibit the use of
17 personal electronic devices by students during the school day in
18 compulsory education settings while permitting devices provided

1 or authorized for educational purposes. **SECTION 3.**
2 **DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this Act, unless the context
3 otherwise requires: (a) “Department” means the Department of
4 Education. (b) “Compulsory education” means public education
5 provided to students required by law to attend school. (c)
6 “Personal electronic device” means any privately owned
7 electronic device capable of communication, internet access,
8 recording, or entertainment, including but not limited to cellular
9 phones, smart watches, tablets, and personal gaming devices. (d)
10 “Educational device” means a device issued, approved, or
11 authorized by a school or school district for instructional
12 purposes. **SECTION 4. PROHIBITION ON PERSONAL**
13 **ELECTRONIC DEVICES.** (a) Beginning with the 2026–2027
14 academic year, students enrolled in compulsory education shall
15 not use personal electronic devices during the school day while on
16 school grounds or participating in school-sponsored instructional
17 activities. (b) Personal electronic devices shall be powered off and
18 stored in accordance with school or district policy during
19 instructional hours. (c) School districts shall adopt policies
20 governing storage procedures and enforcement consistent with
21 this Act. **SECTION 5. PERMITTED USES AND**
22 **EXCEPTIONS.** (a) This Act shall not prohibit: (I) The use of
23 educational devices provided or authorized by the school for
24 instructional purposes; (II) Use of personal devices as part of an
25 approved individualized education program (IEP), Section 504
26 plan, or documented medical accommodation; (III) Use
27 authorized by a teacher or administrator for a specific educational
28 purpose; (IV) Emergency use when necessary to ensure student
29 safety. (b) School districts may establish limited exceptions for
30 extracurricular or non-instructional periods consistent with
31 maintaining an effective learning environment. **SECTION 6.**
32 **IMPLEMENTATION.** (a) The Department of Education shall
33 provide guidance to school districts regarding implementation and

1 best practices for device-free instructional environments. (b)
2 School districts shall adopt or update local policies prior to the
3 start of the 2026–2027 academic year. (c) Nothing in this Act
4 shall require schools to purchase additional devices beyond those
5 already necessary for instructional purposes. **SECTION 7.**
6 **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.** The Department of Education
7 may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.
8 **SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2026.