

Aligned Bill Brief - Senate Bill 302

Bell-to-Bell Student Device & Communication Act

SB 302 requires school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to restrict student use of personal electronic devices during instructional time and set clear rules for staff–student communication. It establishes statewide limits on staff–student social media communication while allowing local flexibility outside instructional time.

WHAT SCHOOLS MUST DO

- Prohibit personal electronic device use during instructional time
- Require devices to be turned off and securely stored away from students
 - Allow devices to be left at home or in vehicles on school property
- Establish enforcement and disciplinary procedures
- Provide a school-designated phone or device for parent contact
- **Prohibit all** private or direct staff–student communication on all social media platforms



SB 302 does NOT:

- ✗ Dictate a specific storage method or discipline
- ✗ Apply to virtual schools

WHAT SCHOOLS MAY CHOOSE TO DO

- Limit or prohibit devices at school-sponsored activities or events outside instructional time
- Approve specific social media platforms for official school use, as long as communication remains public and one-way

Bell-to-Bell Student Device & Communication Act

STAFF-STUDENT SOCIAL MEDIA RULES

Schools must prohibit private or direct communication between employees and students via social media for official school purposes

- Only public, one-way communication is allowed
 - Announcements
 - Event information
- No DMs, private messages, or two-way communication

REPORTING & EXEMPTIONS

- Certification required by September 1, 2026 confirming adoption of required policies
- Does not apply to virtual schools
- **Device use must be allowed if:**
 - Required by a student's IEP or 504 Plan, or
 - Approved by a licensed physician for medical necessity

What is “Instructional Time”?

Bell-to-Bell

- Includes:
 - Classrooms
 - Lunch
 - Recess
 - Passing periods

Does NOT include off-campus learning

What is a “personal electronic communication devices”?

Any wireless electronic device that enables voice, text, or video communication between two or more people and is not owned or issued by the school.

This brief analyzes SB 302 as prefiled on January 6, 2026

Bill Comparison: SB 301 vs HB 2124

Cell Phone Ban Bills

Both bills establish statewide expectations for student device use and digital boundaries to protect instructional time and promote focused learning environments. Together, they set clear standards while preserving local flexibility to meet the needs of students, educators, and communities.

Policy Area	SB 302	HB 2421	Key Difference
Scope of Device Restriction	Prohibits personal electronic device use during instructional time	Prohibits personal electronic device use during the entire school day, including classrooms, passing periods, and lunch	HB 2421 establishes a broader, bell-to-bell expectation
Early-Grade Screen-Time Reporting	No screen-time reporting requirement	Requires reporting of average daily screen time for K-4 students	HB 2421 adds transparency and data collection
Screen-Time Data Handling	Not applicable	Must be aggregate, with no personally identifiable student data; published by KSDE	New accountability component in HB 2421
Medical Exceptions	Allows device use for IEPs, 504 plans, or medical necessity	Allows same exceptions but requires use as a last resort when no reasonable alternative exists	HB 2421 applies a higher threshold

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Staff-Student Social Media Rules	Prohibits private or direct communication for official school purposes	Same prohibition	No difference
Approved Platforms	Allows schools to approve platforms for public, one-way communication	Same allowance	No difference
Local Control	Preserves local authority over enforcement and discipline	Preserves local authority over enforcement and discipline	No difference
Reporting & Certification	Requires certification of policy adoption and submission of screen-time data by Sept. 1, 2026	Same requirement	No difference
Applicability to Virtual Schools	Does not apply to virtual schools	Does not apply to virtual schools	No difference