



Second Regular Session | 75th General Assembly

Colorado General Assembly

CO School Phone Policy Overview

- **Policy:** [HB25-1135](#)
- **Status:** Passed
- **Effective:** 2026/2027 School Year
- **Applies to:** Colorado school for the deaf and the blind, and each institute charter school, district charter school, and a local board of education for its schools that are not district charter schools

i High Level: Adopt, implement, and post on its website a policy concerning student communication device possession and use during the school day.

At a minimum, the policy must describe the prohibitions and exceptions, if any, regarding student communication device possession and use during school.

□ There are two sections of this document:

(1) Key Points highlights key aspects of CO student cellphone policy

(2) Aligning with The Commons App shares how The Commons supports compliance with the new policy

Key Points: Sec. 2. (3)(b), (4) (a-k)

 [HB25-1135](#)

Governing Body Policy Mandate

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On or before July 1, 2026, the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, and each institute charter school, district charter school, and local board of education for its schools that are not district charter schools shall adopt and implement a policy concerning student communication device possession and use during the school day. At a minimum, the policy must describe:

- (I) the prohibitions, if any, and exceptions, if any, regarding student communication device possession during the school day; and
- (II) the prohibitions, if any, and exceptions, if any, of student communication device use during the school day.

Exceptions for Limited Use

2

Exceptions for allowable phone use include:

- (1) during the school day for instructional purposes or to make a Safe2Tell report;
- (2) in an emergency or in response to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual;
- (3) to monitor a student's medical condition;
- (4) to fulfill an Individualized Education Plan or a Section 504 plan developed under Section 504; or an effective communication accommodation for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Considerations: Staff Training, Student Media Literacy & Emotional Learning

3

- (1) Consider training necessary for staff who are required to understand and enforce the policy and staff's capacity to complete the training or any new requirements associated with the policy;
- (2) Consider issues related to media literacy and social and emotional learning;
- (3) Consider comments from the public and from staff.

Aligning with The Commons App

Below are the sections of the proposed cellphone policy mandate parsed out to show how The Commons aligns with each section.

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- 1 (I) the prohibitions, if any, and exceptions, if any, regarding student communication device possession during the school day; and
- (II) the prohibitions, if any, and exceptions, if any, of student communication device use during the school day.

 Review The Commons [sample policy template](#) tailored for IL proposed policy

Exceptions for Limited Use

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- 2 (1) during the school day for instructional purposes or to make a Safe2Tell report;
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- (4) to fulfill an Individualized Education Plan or a Section 504 plan developed under Section 504; or an effective communication accommodation for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

 The Commons blocks distractions from all apps besides those a school allows inline with approved use cases 1-5. Here is a list commonly used medical, emergency and academic apps:
<https://policyhub.the-commons.app/use-cases-in-schools>

Considerations: Staff Training, Student Media Literacy & Emotional Learning

- 3 (1) Consider training necessary for staff who are required to understand and enforce the policy and staff's capacity to complete the training or any new requirements associated with the policy;
- (2) Consider issues related to media literacy and social and emotional learning;
- (3) Consider comments from the public and from staff.

 Included with the app, The Commons provides districts and schools with a live staff PD and a 4 Module Digital Citizenship Curriculum designed with the Common Core.

The app is also built with behavioral sciences to help drive behavior change & awareness for students.

 Learn more about The Commons and how it helps comply with state mandates while supporting students in building healthier digital habits for life: <https://www.the-commons.app/resources>