

# HB65 INTRODUCED



1 HB65  
2 18JW3ZZ-1  
3 By Representative Sellers  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25  
6 PFD: 18-Nov-24



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, local boards of education have the authority to adopt local policies relating to pocket pagers, cellular telephones, and other electronic communication devices.

This bill would require the State Board of Education to adopt a model policy restricting the use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices in public K-12 schools during the school day, with some exceptions.

This bill would also require each local board of education to adopt a policy relating to the use of electronic communication devices based on that model policy.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to amend Section 16-1-27, Code of Alabama 1975; to require the State Board of Education to adopt a model policy restricting the use of cell phones in public K-12 schools; and to require each local board of education to adopt a policy based on that model.



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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

30 Section 1. Section 16-1-27, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
31 amended to read as follows:

32 "§16-1-27

33 (a) ~~A local board of education may permit any pupil to~~  
34 ~~carry a pocket pager, cellular telephone, or other electronic~~  
35 ~~communication device while on school property and may permit~~  
36 ~~any pupil to use a pocket pager, cellular telephone, or other~~  
37 ~~electronic communication device, when such use is expressly~~  
38 ~~and specifically permitted by the school administrator,~~  
39 ~~teacher, or employee who is acting in a supervisory capacity~~  
40 ~~at the time of the use.~~ For purposes of this section, the  
41 following terms have the following meanings:

42 (1) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE. Any privately  
43 owned, portable wireless device that has the capability to  
44 provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between  
45 two or more parties including, but not limited to, a cellular  
46 phone, tablet, computer, pager, or other electronic messaging  
47 device. This term does not include any device that is owned or  
48 issued to students by the local board of education.

49 (2) STATE BOARD. The State Board of Education.

50 (b) (1) No later than January 1, 2026, the state board  
51 shall adopt a model policy that prohibits public K-12 students  
52 from using an electronic communication device during the  
53 school day.

54 (2) The model policy shall provide exceptions  
55 including, but not limited to, permitting a student to use an  
56 electronic communication device:



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57 a. In the event of an emergency or to manage the  
58 student's health care; or

59 b. If the use is included in the student's  
60 individualized education program (IEP) or a plan developed  
61 under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C.  
62 § 794. ~~Any pupil found in violation of this section shall be~~  
63 ~~subject to suspension by the board of education.~~

64 (c) ~~Each~~ No later than the beginning of the 2026-2027  
65 school year, each local board of education ~~may adopt~~ shall  
66 adopt and implement a ~~local~~ policy ~~that pertains to pocket~~  
67 ~~paggers, cellular telephones, and other electronic~~  
68 ~~communication devices~~ relating to the use of electronic  
69 communication devices on school property. The policy, at a  
70 minimum, shall reflect the model policy adopted by the state  
71 board."

72 Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1,  
73 2025.