



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 158
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Timken

Holly Gilman, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Requires each public school to adopt a policy prohibiting the use of cellphones by students during instructional hours.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Student cellphone use

The bill requires each public school's (any school district, community school, STEM school, or college-preparatory boarding school) policy governing the use of cellphones by students during school hours to prohibit outright student cellphone use during the instructional day. Though, the bill maintains an exception to that prohibition that permits cellphone use for student learning or to monitor or address a health concern if determined appropriate by the school's governing body or if that use is included in a student's individualized education program (IEP) or section 504 plan.

Each school must adopt the updated policy by September 1, 2025. As under continuing law, if the district board of education adopts a policy after the bill's effective date, it must do so at a public meeting and make the policy publicly available and post it prominently on its publicly accessible website.¹

Background

H.B. 250 of the 135th General Assembly, effective August 14, 2024, requires public schools to adopt, by July 1, 2025, a policy governing the use of cellphones by students during school hours that (1) emphasizes that student use be as limited as possible during school hours and (2) reduces use-related distractions in classroom settings.

¹ R.C. 3313.753.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-01-25
