



Dear Ignite Community School Families,

We want to inform you of an important new state law that will affect all Texas public and charter schools starting this school year.

House Bill 1481 (HB 1481) was passed during the 89th Texas Legislative Session and signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott on June 20, 2025. This new law requires all public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to adopt and enforce a policy that prohibits students from using personal communication devices on school property during the entire school day.

What Does This Mean for Scholars?

Beginning with the 2025–2026 school year, scholars will not be allowed to use any of the following personal devices while on campus during the school day:

- Cell phones (smart or flip phones)
- Smartwatches
- Tablets
- Earbuds or headphones
- AI glasses or any device capable of digital communication

This applies at all times during the school day, including during class, hallway transitions, lunch, and restroom breaks.

What Will Happen If a Scholar Brings or Uses a Device?

- Devices must be turned off and stored in a designated location or kept at home.
- If a scholar violates this policy, the device may be confiscated and will only be returned to a parent or legal guardian at the end of the school day.
- Devices that are not claimed may be subject to disposal after 90 days, with prior written notice to parents.
- Schools are not required to notify service providers or manufacturers before disposal.



Are There Any Exceptions?

Yes. The following are exempt:

- Scholars with documented medical needs.
- Scholars with disability-related accommodations, such as an IEP or 504 Plan.
- Situations involving legal or safety protocols.

Why Was This Law Created?

The goal of HB 1481 is to:

- Reduce distractions and improve focus in the classroom.
- Promote face-to-face communication.
- Prevent cyberbullying.
- Support overall student mental health and well-being.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) will provide model policies to help schools comply with this law.

We appreciate your support and partnership as we work together to create the best possible learning environment for all scholars. If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to reach out to your campus leadership.

Thank you for being a valued part of the Ignite Community!

Sincerely,

Ignite Community School Leadership Team