

SB0069S02 compared with SB0069S01

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in SB0069S01 but was omitted in SB0069S02

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0069S01 but was inserted into SB0069S02

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School Device Revisions
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore
House Sponsor: Doug Welton



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3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill establishes the default standard device use from prohibited during instructional
6 time to prohibited during the school day.

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This bill:

9 ▶ establishes the default standard device use from prohibited during instructional time to prohibited
during the school day; and

11 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

12 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

13 None

14 **Other Special Clauses:**

15 This bill provides a special effective date.

16 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

17 AMENDS:

18 **53G-7-227** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 9

SB0069S01

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53G-7-227** is amended to read:

53G-7-227. Cellular device prohibition.

(1) As used in this section:

(a)

(i) "Cellphone" means a handheld, portable electronic device that is designed to be operated using one or both hands and is capable of transmitting and receiving voice, data, or text communication by means of:

[(i)] (A) a cellular network;

[(ii)] (B) a satellite network; or

[(iii)] (C) any other wireless technology.

[(b)] (ii) "Cellphone" includes:

[(i)] (A) a smartphone;

[(ii)] (B) a feature phone;

[(iii)] (C) a mobile phone;

[(iv)] (D) a satellite phone; or

[(v)] (E) a personal digital assistant that incorporates capabilities similar to a smartphone, feature phone, mobile phone, or satellite phone.

[(e) "~~Classroom hours~~" means:]

[(i) ~~time during which a student receives scheduled, teacher-supervised instruction that occurs:]~~

[(A) ~~in a physical or virtual classroom setting;]~~

[(B) ~~during regular school operating hours; and]~~

[(C) ~~as part of an approved educational curriculum.]~~

[(ii) "~~Classroom hours~~" does not include:]

[(A) ~~lunch periods;]~~

[(B) ~~recess;]~~

[(C) ~~transit time between classes;]~~

[(D) ~~study halls unless directly supervised by a qualified instructor;]~~

[(E) ~~after-school activities unless part of an approved extended learning program; or]~~

[(F) ~~independent study time occurring outside scheduled instruction.]~~

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51 [~~(d)~~] (b)

(i) "Emerging technology" means any other device that has or will be able to act in place of or as an extension of an individual's cellphone.

53 (ii) "Emerging technology" does not include school provided or required devices.

54 (c) "School hours" means the time from the beginning of the school day, as designated by the school's bell schedule, until the end of the school day, as designated by the school's bell schedule, including all instructional time, lunch periods, recess, and transition times between classes.

58 [~~(e)~~] (d) "Smart watch" means a wearable computing device that closely resembles a wristwatch or other time-keeping device with the capacity to act in place of or as an extension of an individual's cellphone.

61 [~~(f)~~] (e) "Smart watch" does not include a wearable device that can only:

62 (i) tell time;

63 (ii) monitor an individual's health informatics;

64 (iii) receive and display notifications or information without the capability to respond; or

66 (iv) track the individual's physical location.

67 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a student may not use a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology at a school during school hours.

69 [~~(2)~~] (3)

(a) [~~An~~] Notwithstanding this section, an LEA:

70 (i) shall establish a policy that allows a student to use a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology:

72 (A) to respond to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual;

73 (B) to respond to a school-wide emergency;

74 (C) to use the SafeUT Crisis Line described in Section 53H-4-210;

75 (D) for a student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan; or

76 (E) to address a medical necessity; and

77 (ii) in addition to the exceptions described in Subsection (3)(a)(i), may establish a policy that provides for other circumstances when a student may use a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology during the school day.

80 (b) An LEA may establish policies that:

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(i) extend restrictions on student use of cellphones, smart watches, or emerging technologies to non-~~[classroom]~~ school hours~~[-during the school day]~~, including[:]

83 ~~[(A) lunch periods;]~~

84 ~~[(B) transition times between classes; and]~~

85 ~~[(C) other] school-supervised activities; and~~

86 (ii) impose additional limitations on the use of cellphones, smart watches, or emerging technologies beyond those required by this section.

88 ~~[(3) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a student may not use a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology at a school during classroom hours.]~~

90 (4)

(a) Notwithstanding Subsections (2) and (3), a parent or legal guardian of a student may submit a written opt-out request to the LEA.

92 (b) Upon receipt of a written opt-out request under Subsection (4)(a), an LEA shall permit the student to possess and use the student's cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology:

95 (i) outside of instructional time, including:

96 (A) passing periods;

97 (B) lunch periods;

98 (C) release time; and

99 (D) before and after the school day; and

100 (ii) in a manner that does not materially disrupt instruction or LEA operations.

101 (c) An LEA may not require a student to have an individualized education program, Section 504 accommodation plan, medical accommodation, or special education designation as a condition for granting a parental opt-out under this Subsection (4).

104 (d) An LEA may continue to prohibit a student's use of a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology during instructional time, except as otherwise permitted by a teacher for instructional purposes.

107 (e) An LEA may adopt rules limiting use under this Subsection (4) to designated areas of LEA property.

90 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) The state board may create one or more model policies regarding when a student may use a student's cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology in a school during ~~[classroom]~~ school hours consistent with this section.

112 Section 2. **Effective date.**

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Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

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