

**PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE IN PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Susan Pulsipher**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill enacts provisions regarding the use of a personal electronic device in public schools.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires a public school to develop a policy regarding the use of personal electronic devices on school premises;
- ▶ requires a public school to submit the device policy to the local education agency governing board at least every two years for review;
- ▶ requires each local education agency governing board to review and approve or suggest revisions to each school's device policy;
- ▶ requires a public school to provide the device policy to parents, students, and employees; and
- ▶ provides requirements related to device policy training.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None



28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 ENACTS:

30 **53G-7-1301**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

31 **53G-7-1302**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

32 **53G-7-1303**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

35 Section 1. Section **53G-7-1301** is enacted to read:

36 **Part 13. Personal Electronic Device Policy**

37 **53G-7-1301. Definitions.**

38 As used in this part:

39 (1) "Allowable classroom use policy" means a device policy that prohibits an  
40 individual from using a personal electronic device on school premises except:

41 (a) during lunch time;

42 (b) during recess;

43 (c) in a school hallway or common area while moving between classrooms;

44 (d) during a school-sponsored event;

45 (e) before and after regular school hours;

46 (f) inside a classroom during regular school hours only if authorized by a teacher; or

47 (g) as specifically allowed by the school's device policy.

48 (2) "Device policy" means a policy developed by a school regarding the use of a  
49 personal electronic device as described in Section **53G-7-1302**.

50 (3) "Permissive policy" means a device policy that:

51 (a) prohibits an individual from using a personal electronic device on school premises  
52 except:

53 (i) during lunch time;

54 (ii) during recess;

55 (iii) in a school hallway or common area while moving between classrooms;

56 (iv) during a school-sponsored event; or

57 (v) before and after regular school hours; and

58 (b) requires that a personal electronic device remain out of sight and turned off or

59 placed in silent mode while inside a classroom during regular school hours.

60 (4) "Personal electronic device" means an electronic device that:

61 (a) can access the Internet, including:

62 (i) a smart phone;

63 (ii) a tablet; or

64 (iii) a virtual reality device;

65 (b) can be used to listen to audio recordings, including earphones or a wireless device;

66 and

67 (c) is not the property of a school or an LEA.

68 (5) "Restrictive policy" means a device policy that requires, unless a school counselor  
69 or administrator provides otherwise through written authorization to an individual for a specific  
70 reason, that a personal electronic device remain out of sight and turned off or placed in silent  
71 mode while on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation, or at a school-sponsored  
72 event.

73 (6) "School-sponsored event" means:

74 (a) an extracurricular activity, including a field trip or an extended school-sponsored  
75 trip; or

76 (b) school-sponsored transportation to and from an extracurricular activity.

77 Section 2. Section **53G-7-1302** is enacted to read:

78 **53G-7-1302. Device policy required -- Review and approval by an LEA governing**  
79 **board -- Notification.**

80 (1) On or before August 1, 2019, a school shall develop a device policy that is:

81 (a) an allowable classroom use policy;

82 (b) a permissive policy; or

83 (c) a restrictive policy.

84 (2) The device policy shall address the following minimum components:

85 (a) prohibitions and acceptable use of personal electronic devices:

86 (i) on the school premises;

87 (ii) while using school-sponsored transportation; and

88 (iii) at a school-sponsored event;

89 (b) prohibitions and acceptable use of personal electronic devices during the

90 administration of a statewide assessment;

91 (c) possible consequences for violating the device policy; and

92 (d) possible criminal penalties for violating state or federal law.

93 (3) At least every two years, a school shall submit the school's device policy to the

94 LEA governing board for review and approval.

95 (4) (a) After reviewing a school's device policy, the LEA governing board shall:

96 (i) approve the device policy; or

97 (ii) not approve the device policy and submit suggested revisions on the device policy

98 to the school.

99 (b) If the LEA governing board does not approve a school's device policy, the school

100 shall, within 30 days of receiving the suggested revisions:

101 (i) revise the device policy; and

102 (ii) submit the revised device policy to the LEA governing board for review.

103 (5) An LEA governing board shall provide public notice and hold at least one public

104 meeting to address a school's proposed or revised device policy.

105 (6) A school shall prominently post:

106 (a) copies of the school's device policy in the school; and

107 (b) an electronic link to the school's device policy on the school's or LEA's website.

108 (7) A school shall, within 20 days of the start of each school year, provide a copy of the

109 school's device policy to parents, students, and employees.

110 Section 3. Section **53G-7-1303** is enacted to read:

111 **53G-7-1303. Required training on school device policies.**

112 (1) A school that adopts a permissive policy shall, within the first 20 days of each

113 school year, provide school-wide or in-classroom training to employees and students that

114 covers:

115 (a) the contents of the device policy;

116 (b) the LEA's conduct and discipline policies as described in Section [53G-8-202](#);

117 (c) the possible consequences for misuse of a personal electronic device in violation of:

118 (i) the device policy; or

119 (ii) the school online access policy described in Section [53G-7-1003](#);

120 (d) the prohibition and possible consequences of using a personal electronic device in

121 violation of state or federal law; and

122 (e) the benefits of connecting to the Internet, utilizing the school's Internet filters, while  
123 on school premises.

124 (2) A school that adopts an allowable classroom use policy shall:

125 (a) provide, within the first 20 days of each school year, school-wide or in-classroom  
126 training to employees and students that covers:

127 (i) the elements described in Subsections (1)(a) through (e); and

128 (ii) specific rules governing the use of a personal electronic device while in a  
129 classroom; and

130 (b) require that each teacher who allows the use of a personal electronic device in the  
131 classroom clearly communicate to parents and students the conditions under which the use of a  
132 personal electronic device is allowed.