

SCHOOL CELLPHONE USAGE AMENDMENTS

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Trevor Lee

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill addresses the use of cellphones and smart watches in classrooms.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ subject to certain exceptions, prohibits a student from possessing a cellphone or smart watch in a classroom; and
- ▶ requires a local education agency (LEA) to enforce the provisions of this bill, in the manner determined by the LEA.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53G-7-224, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53G-7-224** is enacted to read:

53G-7-224. Cellphones and smart watches in classrooms -- Prohibition --

Exceptions -- Enforcement.



(1) (a) "Smart watch" means a wearable computing device that closely resembles a wristwatch or other time-keeping device with the capacity to act as an extension of an individual's cellphone.

(b) "Smart watch" does not include a wearable device that can only:

(i) tell time;

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

(iii) track the individual's physical location.

(2) An LEA shall ensure that each classroom includes a location where a student may place a cellphone or smart watch in an individual receptacle when entering the classroom.

(3) Except as provided in Subsections (4) through (6):

(a) a student may not have a cellphone or smart watch in the student's possession in a classroom; and

(b) a student may not retrieve a cellphone or smart watch from a location described in Subsection (2) until the student leaves the classroom.

(4) A student may possess a cellphone or smart watch in a classroom:

(a) if possession is necessary to respond to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual;

(b) to the extent the possession is expressly permitted in the student's individualized education program or Section 504 accommodation plan; or

(c) to the extent needed to address a medical necessity, as explained in a note signed by the student's parent.

(5) A student in an elementary school may not retrieve the student's cellphone or smart watch during lunch or recess.

(6) A student in a secondary school may possess the student's cellphone or smart watch between classes and during lunch.

(7) An LEA shall:

(a) enforce the provisions of this section; and

(b) describe in a written policy the method of enforcement, including the disciplinary actions for a violation.