

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
5 SUBSTITUTE FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1276

By: Caldwell (Chad), **Lowe**
(Dick), and **Moore** of the
7 House

8 and

Seifried of the Senate

9
10 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11
12 An Act relating to schools; requiring district boards
13 of education to adopt a policy prohibiting student
14 cell phone and personal electronic device use under
15 certain circumstances; requiring exceptions for
16 emergencies; allowing board approval to opt out of
prohibition; requiring annual approval of alternative
policies; defining terms; providing for codification;
providing an effective date; and declaring an
emergency.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-162 of Title 70, unless there
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. Before the start of the 2025-2026 school year, each school
24 district board of education shall adopt a policy to prohibit the use

1 of cell phones and personal electronic devices by students enrolled
2 in the district during the entirety of the school day and while
3 present on school grounds.

4 B. District policies described in subsection A of this section
5 shall incorporate provisions for emergency use including, but not
6 limited to, use to support medical issues documented by a licensed
7 medical professional.

8 C. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, a school
9 district board of education may vote to adopt a policy allowing
10 student cell phone or personal electronic device usage during the
11 school day. Any such policy shall be reviewed and approved by the
12 district board on an annual basis.

13 D. For purposes of this section:

14 1. "Cell phone" means a portable wireless telephone device that
15 is designed to send or receive transmissions through a cellular
16 radiotelephone service;

17 2. "Personal electronic device" means any personal device
18 capable of connecting to a smart phone, the Internet, a cellular or
19 Wi-Fi network, or directly connecting to another similar device.

20 Personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to, smart
21 watches, smart headphones, laptops, tablets, and smart glasses.

22 Personal electronic devices shall not include devices that are
23 school-issued or school-approved and specifically limited for use in
24 classroom instruction; and

1 3. "School day" means the entirety of the day, from the first
2 bell indicating the beginning of classroom instruction through the
3 final bell indicating the end of classroom instruction.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

5 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
6 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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10 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OVERSIGHT, dated
11 02/11/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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