

# **Winnsboro Independent School District**

## **Student Cell Phone Policy 2025-2026**

### **In Compliance with Texas House Bill 1481**

#### **Purpose**

In accordance with HB 1481, this policy is designed to eliminate student use of personal communication devices during the instructional day to support academic focus, safety, and student well-being.

#### **Personal Communication Devices Covered**

This policy applies to, but is not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches
- Tablets
- Gaming devices
- Air Pods, Bluetooth headphones, wireless headphones, ear buds and/or Any device capable of wireless communication or digital messaging

#### **Use Restrictions**

- Students must store personal communication devices powered off and in their backpack or another secure, out-of-sight location upon entering campus.
- Devices must not be used or heard from the time a student enters the campus at or after 7:25 am to the final bell of the school day (7:25 AM-3:35 PM).
- Devices may only be accessed and used after the school day ends at 3:35 PM.
- Devices may not be used during passing periods, lunch, or other non-instructional time during the school day.

#### **Exceptions**

Use of devices is permitted under the following conditions:

- As required by a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan
- For documented medical purposes from a medical professional
- As permitted under state law or in the event of a campus emergency

## Disciplinary Consequences

Offense	Consequence
1st Offense	Device is confiscated. Parent is contacted. Device is returned to student at the end of the day.
2nd Offense	Device is confiscated. One (1) day of detention assigned. <u>Parent must pick up the device.</u>
3rd Offense	Device is confiscated. One (1) day of In-School Suspension (ISS). <u>Parent must pick up the device.</u>
4th Offense	Device is confiscated. Three (3) days of ISS. Parent conference is required. <u>Parent must pick up the device.</u>
5th Offense	Device is confiscated. Conference with parent and student. A Cell Phone Compliance Plan will be created. <u>Parent must pick up the device.</u>
6th Offense and Beyond	Device is confiscated. Student will be placed in DAEP (Disciplinary Alternative Education Program) for 20 or more days as determined by the campus administrator or designee. <u>Parent must pick up the device.</u>

## Additional Notes

- Repeated violations may be considered persistent misbehavior, as defined by the Texas Education Code.
- All confiscated devices not claimed within 90 days of written notice to the parent may be disposed of in accordance with HB 1481.