

NAVARRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Subject: **HB 1481- Consider and Possible Approval of FNCE (Local) addressing Personal Communication Devices**

Date: July 21, 2025

Administrator Responsible/Position: Mandy D. Epley. Superintendent of Schools

A. Purpose of Agenda Item:

☐ Information Only ☒ Action Needed ☐ Receive Input

B. Authority for This Action:

☒ Local Policy ☒ Law or Rule ☐ N/A

C. Priority, Goal, or Need Addressed:

☐ Strategic Plan ☐ District/Campus Improvement Plan ☒ Other

Priorities

- ☐ **Priority 1:** Recruiting, Hiring, Coaching, and Retaining High Quality Teachers and Staff to Support Student Outcomes.
- ☐ **Priority 2:** Maximizing Academic Performance.
- ☐ **Priority 3:** Maximizing Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Opportunities, Performance, and Engagement.
- ☐ **Priority 4:** Planning, Preparing, and Maintaining Facilities and Environments for Learning.
- ☐ **Priority 5:** Obtaining and Maintaining Top Rated District Recognition

Board Goals for 2023-2028

- ☐ **Goal 1*:** The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Reading will increase from 49% to 60% by June 2024, 65% for 2024-2025, 70% for 2025-2026, 75% for 2026-2027, 80% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**
- ☐ **Goal 2*:** Increased overall student performance in mathematics to 85% Meets Standard by 2028. The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Math will increase from 53% to 65% by June 2024, 70% for 2024-2025, 75% for 2025-2026, 80% for 2026-2027, 85% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**
- ☐ **Goal 3*:** The percentage of graduates that meet the criteria for CCMR will increase from 72% to 88% by August 2024 and increase to 95% by 2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

D.

Summary: **Administration seeks action in July addressing HB 1481 with recommended language from TASB to be applied to FNCE (LOCAL) to complete the student handbook for publication and communicate to families prior to the start of the 2025-2026 school year.**

HB 1481 amends Section 37.082 of the Texas Education Code to require school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to adopt and implement a written policy that prohibits students from using personal communication devices while on school property during the school day. The policy must outline disciplinary measures for violations and may include procedures for confiscation. The bill allows districts to either prohibit students from bringing devices altogether or to designate specific storage methods for such devices while students are on campus.

Exceptions are mandated for students who require the use of communication devices due to disability-related accommodations under federal law (such as an IEP or a Section 504 plan), for documented medical needs, or for compliance with legal or safety protocols. The bill also allows districts and schools to dispose of confiscated devices after providing 90 days' written notice to a student's parent, but removes previous language requiring notification to the service provider or manufacturer. Importantly, devices issued to students by the district or charter school are excluded from the prohibition.

**Background
Information:**

This new law, established in the 89th legislative session, requires school districts to prohibit student use of personal communication devices at school during the school day. Navarro ISD will establish processes for storage of such devices during the school day. There are limited exceptions allowable for the use of the devices.
TASB has provided appropriate language for FNCE(LOCAL).
The law becomes effective September 18, 2025.

E. Comments Received:

☒ LT

☐ DEIC

☐ Other

All agenda items are reviewed by the Superintendent's Leadership Team.

**Administrative
Recommendation:**

Administration recommends approving the policy as presented for FNCE (LOCAL) to comply with the law that requires school districts to prohibit student use of personal communication devices at school during the school day. Navarro ISD will establish processes for storage of such devices during the school day. Phones may be confiscated. A disciplinary consequence will be established for violation. Monetary consequences are no longer supported for violation and disciplinary consequences will be noted in the Code of Conduct. We recommend the board act before the start of the 2025-26 school year.

F.

G. Fiscal Impact and Cost:

☐ Budget

☐ Bond

Amount: N/A

☐ Grant/Special
Funds

☐ Other

H. Exhibits: HB 1481 (click on link) **Texas-2025-HB1481-Enrolled.html**, FNCE
I. (Local), FNCE (Local) Administrative Regulations, FNCE (Local)
Communication to Families

Action:

“I move to approve/disapprove/postpone” the policy changes to FNCE (LOCAL), to address HB1481, as presented.

Motion by: _____

Second by: _____

FOR: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

AGAINST: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

ABSTAIN: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

MOTION CARRIED/DENIED/POSTPONED