



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function Board of Education Meeting: 08/05/2025

Item Title: Recommend Approval to Adopt TASB
Policy FNCE (LOCAL)

X Action
Information
Discussion

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 1481 mandates that all Texas public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools adopt and enforce a written policy prohibiting student use of personal communication devices on school property during the school day. The law requires schools to outline disciplinary actions for violations and permits confiscation of devices. Districts may choose to ban devices altogether or establish a method for storing them during the school day.

The bill requires that exceptions be made for students whose device use is necessary due to an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a Section 504 plan, a physician's directive, or for health or safety compliance. "Personal communication devices" include smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, and other electronic communication tools, but exclude school-issued devices. Districts must implement the required policy no later than 90 days after the bill's effective date.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval to adopt TASB Policy FNCE (LOCAL).

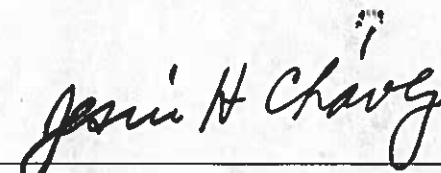

Maricela Z. Puente

Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Dr. Linda Gallegos 
Recommended by: Chief Human Resources Officer

Dr. Linda Gallegos 
Approved by: Chief Human Resources Officer

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:


Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent

When Necessary, Additional Background May Follow This.

STUDENT CONDUCT
PERSONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

FNCE
(LOCAL)

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Personal
Communication
Devices

Note: For searches of personal communication devices or other personal electronic devices, see FNF.

A student shall not use a personal communication device on school property during the school day. While on school property, the student shall store any personal communication device in accordance with administrative regulations.

A student who violates this policy or any regulations shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the Board-adopted Student Code of Conduct.

An authorized District employee shall confiscate a student's personal communication device that is used in violation of this policy or any applicable regulations.

The District shall not dispose of the personal communication device. The District shall provide appropriate notice, and devices that are not retrieved shall be stored according to administrative regulations.

Exceptions

A student shall be authorized to use a personal communication device on school property during the school day only under the following circumstances:

1. The student's use is necessary for implementation of the student's individualized education program, a 504 plan, or a similar program or plan;
2. The student's use is required due to a documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician; or
3. The student's use is necessary to comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as part of the District or campus safety protocols.

Implementation

The Superintendent shall develop regulations to implement this policy.

Compliance

Annually, the Superintendent shall report to the Board on the implementation and compliance of this policy.

~~**Note:** For searches of personal telecommunications devices or other personal electronic devices, see FNF.~~

STUDENT CONDUCT
PERSONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

FNCE
(LOCAL)

Instructional Use	A student shall obtain prior approval before using personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for on-campus instructional purposes. The student shall also acknowledge receipt and understanding of applicable regulations and shall sign the appropriate user agreements. [See CQ]
Noninstructional Use	All students shall be permitted to use their cell phones before or after school while on school property. High school students shall be permitted to use their cell phones during the lunch period. Noninstructional use zones shall be established by campus administration for students to use their electronic devices in a manner adhering to District policy.
Consequences of Misuse	An authorized District employee may confiscate a personal telecommunications device, including a mobile telephone, used in violation of applicable District or campus rules. The District shall not charge a fee for the release of a personal telecommunications device. In accordance with the student handbook, the student or the student's parents may retrieve a device after receiving notification from the District. If a personal telecommunications device is not retrieved, the District shall dispose of the device after providing notice required by law.
Other Electronic Devices	Guidelines regarding other personal electronic devices shall be addressed in the student handbook.