



Board of Trustees Agenda Item

Date	August 18, 2025
Agenda Item	First Reading and Possible Adoption of BISD Board Policy FNCE(LOCAL)
Policy Reference	FNCE(LOCAL)
Strategic Goal	Student Success
Department	Administrative Services

Recommendation: The BISD Administration is requesting that the board review and approve changes to board policy FNCE(LOCAL).

Summary: A review and discussion of House Bill 1481 was provided to the school board on July 17, 2025. To comply with House Bill 1481 and to further support student learning, BISD Administration is recommending policy changes to BISD board policy FNCE(LOCAL) as it pertains to the student use of personal communications devices while on school property during the school day.

House Bill 1481 mandates that Texas public schools implement policies prohibiting student use of personal communication devices (like cell phones and smartwatches) during the school day on school grounds. Key pieces of the bill include:

- **Policy Requirement:** The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school shall adopt, implement, and ensure the district or school complies with a written policy prohibiting a student from using a personal communication device while on school property during the school day.
- **Disciplinary Measures:** The policy must establish disciplinary measures to be imposed for violation of the prohibition and may provide for confiscation of the personal communication device.
- **Definitions:** "personal communication device" means a telephone, cell phone such as a smartphone or flip phone, tablet, smartwatch, radio device, paging device, or any other electronic devices capable of telecommunication or digital communication. The term does not include an electronic device provided to a student by a school district.
- **Exceptions:** Exceptions must be made for students with support needs who rely upon their phones for support as a part of a Section 504 plan or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

To align with the policy changes and to support our staff in preparing for the adjustments mandated by House Bill 1481, we have revised the 2025-2026 BISD Student Handbook and the 2025-2026 BISD Student Code of Conduct to include additional rules and direction for the student use of personal communication devices while on school property during the school day.

Rationale: To comply with House Bill 1481 and to support student learning, the school board must adopt a policy that addresses the student use of personal communications devices.

Recommended by: Dr. John O'Hare, Chief Administrative Officer

Submitted by: Dr. John O'Hare, Chief Administrative Officer

Suggested Motion: I move to approve the recommended changes to board policy FNCE(LOCAL) as presented.