



Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE: Consider Adopting Student Related Policy Changes
(Section 4 – Students)

DATE: November 17, 2025

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR: Dr. Michael Farrell
Executive Director of Student Services

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

The administration desires to update section four (4): Students - of Fort Smith Public Schools Board Policies.

4.47—POSSESSION AND USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES— In July 2025, Board policy 4.47 was entirely rewritten to incorporate the changes regarding personal electronic devices from Act 122 of 2025, commonly known as “Bell to Bell, No Cell”. Upon approval on the policy by the School Board, the District was mandated to submit a copy of the policy to Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for review.

On October 31, 2025, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education of the Arkansas Department of Education responded to advise the district to ensure that the following exemption as included in Act is added to the district policy.

The student is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course at an institution of higher education, and the use of the personal electronic device is necessary in order to utilize two-factor authentication to access course work and resources for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course. The use of the personal electronic device shall be limited to the time necessary to complete the two-factor authentication process.

Mr. Marshall Ney has subsequently reviewed this directive from the Arkansas Department of Education.

A clean and redline version is being provided to enable the Board to see the specific changes that are being proposed in accordance with Act 122 of 2025. If approved, revisions to Policy 4.47 will become effective immediately.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the changes to Board Policy 4.47 as presented to be effective upon board approval. If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

Move to approve Board Policy 4.47 as presented to be effective upon Board approval.