



Italy Independent School District

Office of the Superintendent

J. Lance Bray
Principal
Stafford Elementary

Rachel Kistner
Superintendent

Sharon Graves
Principal
Italy Junior High-High School

New Texas Cell Phone Law Italy ISD Administrative Recommendations

House Bill (HB) 1481 requires local school boards to adopt and implement a written policy prohibiting students from using cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices, or any other electronic device capable of communication while on school property during the school day, unless the device was provided to a student by the school district, and requires the policy to include disciplinary measures which will include confiscation of the device.

Board Policy

Italy ISD Administration recommends the board of trustees select the policy to designate a method for the storage of the device while the student is on school property during the school day through adoption of the revised Board policy FNCE(LOCAL).

Regulations to Implement the New Policy

The new Texas law created in House Bill 1481 prohibits students from using cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices, or any other electronic device capable of communication while on school property during the school day.

The use of the word “devices” refers to any and all the items listed above.

Italy ISD Administration recommends approval of the following regulations to implement the new law and board policy:

- School day is defined as:
 - Stafford: Upon arrival at school - 4:15 PM
 - JH/HS: Upon arrival at school - 4:05 PM
- Stafford
 - Students' devices will be kept in backpacks during the school day.
- JH/HS
 - All devices will be put in phone lockers, supplied by the district, upon arrival to school and remain there until dismissal.
 - 1st period athletics will put their devices in lockers after 1st period. Coaches will manage devices during the 1st period.

- 8th period athletics will pick up their devices before going to athletics and coaches will manage them during 8th period.
- For early release for extra-curricular activities, students will be allowed to pick up their devices before leaving.
- The district will dispose of a confiscated device that has not been picked up by a parent after having provided the student's parent 90 days' written notice of the school's intent to dispose of the device.
- Devices will be allowed as necessary to implement an IEP or Section 504 plan for medical reasons by a student with a documented need based on a medical plan as directed from a physician.
- Any non-medical requests for use of a device to implement an IEP or Section 504 plan will be addressed in an ARD or 504 meeting.
- No devices will be allowed on field trips if students are leaving and returning within the instructional school day. For field trips that will last longer than a school day, devices will be permitted.

Disciplinary Measures

House Bill (HB) 1481 requires local school boards to not only adopt and implement a written policy prohibiting students from using devices but also disciplinary measures which will include confiscation of the device.

Italy ISD Administration recommends approval of the following disciplinary measures to enforce the new law and board policy:

1st Offense: Device(s) are confiscated and locked in the student locker (JH/HS) and in the office (Stafford) for the remainder of the day.

2nd offense: Device(s) are confiscated and locked in the office for the parent to pick up.

3rd offense: Device(s) are confiscated and locked in the office until the following Tuesday for the parent to pick up. If device(s) are confiscated on a Tuesday, they can not be picked up until the following Tuesday.

4th offense: Device(s) are confiscated and locked in the office until the following Tuesday for the parent to pick up **and** 1 day of ISS.

Each additional offense:

Each additional offense will be an additional day assigned to ISS (ie...5th offense

= 2 days ISS, 6th offense = 3 days ISS, and so on) as well as device(s) being confiscated and locked in the office until the following Tuesday for the parent to pick up.

REMINDER NOTICES:

- *ISS placements affect student exemption eligibility for mid-term and final exams.*
- *Check the Extra-Curricular Handbook for how ISS may affect participation.*
- *ISS placements affect possible renewals of transfer students to Italy ISD.*
- *ISS placements can affect other areas at the discretion of the campus administration.*

Parents/Guardians Expectations

It is crucial that parents/guardians assist us in implementing this new law. If there is important information your child needs to have during the school day, you will need to call the school office, leave a message and it will be delivered to them.

Stafford Elementary 972-483-6342

Italy JH/HS: 972-483-7411