

STUDY SESSION**RESTRICTION OF STUDENT PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES****SUMMARY**

The district is implementing revised rules on student use of cell phones and personal devices effective in the 2025-26 school year, in compliance with an executive order issued by Oregon Governor Tina Kotek.

BACKGROUND

Until last year, school rules about personal cell phones varied by school and classroom. In 2024-25, the district undertook a community engagement and decision-making process to develop a consistent districtwide approach for each school level to address student personal device use during the school day in order to support student learning and well-being. All BSD middle and high schools implemented stop-gap measures for the school year that required phones to be turned off and put away during class.

Last spring, after reviewing research and best practices and considering input from 17,600+ constituents across BSD including students, parents and teachers, the district planned to implement rules requiring elementary and middle school students to “pack or park” (turn off and put away) their personal mobile devices including phones, earbuds and smart watches from the start of the school day until the end of the school day. High school and option school students would be required to pack or park devices during instructional time but would be able to use them during passing periods and lunch breaks. This plan was presented to the board in April 2025 and board policy was updated consistent with this approach in May.

A few months after the district’s community-informed plan to restrict student personal devices was determined and announced, Governor Tina Kotek issued Executive Order 25-09, signing into law a directive for all public K-12 schools to ban student use of cell phones and other personal devices from “bell to bell” during the school day, with the goal to improve mental health, focus, learning, and safety in schools for all students. The Governor’s order does not allow devices to be used between classes or during lunch as the district’s plan would have allowed for high school and option school students.

In response to the Governor’s order, the district has revised its rules on device restrictions, including high schools and option schools in the more restrictive category previously applied to elementary and middle schools: a ban on use of devices “bell to bell” during the school day, using “Pack It or Park It” messaging.

School districts are required to create or update their policies to reflect the requirements outlined in the executive order no later than October 31, 2025, and must implement the restrictions by January 1, 2026. The order includes extensive specific provisions to be included in board policy. Board policy revisions will be recommended in a separate agenda item in the board’s business meeting, recommending the board update Policy JFCEB – Personal Electronic Devices to comply with the Governor’s order restricting student use of mobile devices during the school day.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff will present information on the district’s implementation of the Governor’s executive order restricting student use of mobile devices during the school day.

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