HB1481 Parent FAQ

What does House Bill 1481 require?

It prohibits students from using personal communication devices (such as cell phones and smartwatches) during the school day. Devices must remain off and out of sight, including during lunch, recess, passing periods, field trips, and other academic activities.

Who does this law apply to?

All Texas public school students in all grade levels - elementary through high school, PK-12.

What qualifies as a "personal communication device"?

Devices that send/receive messages, calls, or data, including:

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches
- Personal tablets not issued by the school or district

Can my child bring their personal communication device to school?

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
Yes, but it must be put away and silenced before school, during the instructional day, and at dismissal.	Yes, but it must be put away and silenced before school and during the instructional day. Devices may be turned on and utilized after the school day ends.	Yes, but it must be put away and silenced during the instructional day.

How can I reach my child during the school day?

Please call the front office. Staff will assist with urgent or important messages.

What if my child needs their phone for safety reasons?

Students may carry a device for safety but cannot use it during the school day unless authorized by special education or 504 services.

Can my child listen to music at school?
Yes, but only on their school-issued iPad using Apple Music, with their own USB-C or Bluetooth earbuds.

My child uses a smartwatch for health reasons. What should I do?
Reach out to a campus administrator. All requests must go through the 504 or IEP process to determine if it qualifies as an accommodation.

REMINDERS:

- There is no longer a Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) option.
- Athletic communication should be done via SportsYOU, not personal devices.
- For younger students who do not have external email access, families should call the front office with any needs.