

Developing Concerns: New CA School Health Laws Starting July 1 *July 2026*

New state laws are set to go into effect July 1 that impact CA schools. Three laws are noteworthy to pediatricians:

Smartphones in schools: When children and teens return to school after summer break, many will be surprised to find that their school (public and charter schools) has a state required policy to limit phone use, aimed at making classrooms “smartphone free”. The school policy is allowed to permit phone use in cases of emergency or when necessary for the student’s education or health.



Youth suicide prevention: Public schools grades 7-12 and public colleges will be requiring student ID cards to include a suicide prevention and crisis assistance hotline number. In addition, ID cards must also print the Trevor Project’s 24/7 suicide prevention number, which focuses on providing support for LGBTQ+ youth.

K-12 school restrooms: Most CA schools (public and charter) must offer and maintain at least one all-gender restroom for students, if they have more than one female and male student restroom.

The success of these measures should encourage pediatricians to advocate for children’s health in schools. Please attend the AAP CA1 ACT Conference September 19 to learn more.



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