

HOUSE BILL No. 2421

By Representatives Brantley, Butler, Chauncey, Goetz, Martinez, Oropeza, Steele,
K. Williams and Xu

1-7

1 AN ACT concerning education; relating to school districts and accredited
2 nonpublic schools; prohibiting students from using personal electronic
3 communication devices during school hours; prohibiting school
4 employees from communicating with students via social media
5 platforms for official school purposes and providing certain exceptions;
6 requiring the adoption of policies and procedures relating thereto;
7 requiring each board of education of a school district and governing
8 authority of an accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school to
9 report on the average amount of screen time that students in
10 kindergarten and grades one through four experience during a typical
11 school day.
12

13 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

14 New Section 1. (a) Each board of education of a school district and
15 governing authority of an accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary
16 school shall adopt policies and procedures to govern the use of personal
17 electronic communication devices by students during the normal hours of
18 the school day, including in the classroom, passing periods and lunch time.
19 Such policies and procedures shall:

20 (1) Prohibit students from using or accessing personal electronic
21 communication devices;

22 (2) require that all personal electronic communication devices be
23 turned off and securely locked or stowed away in a secure lockable pouch,
24 phone locker or other inaccessible location;

25 (3) set forth enforcement procedures and disciplinary actions for
26 violations of such policies and procedures;

27 (4) authorize any student to use a personal electronic communication
28 device only if the use is:

29 (A) (i) Required for the implementation of a student's individualized
30 education program or 504 plan; or

31 (ii) approved by an individual licensed by the state board of healing
32 arts to practice medicine and surgery or a mid-level practitioner as defined
33 in K.S.A. 65-1626, and amendments thereto, as a medical necessity to
34 support the health or well-being of the student; and

35 (B) the intervention of last resort such that there is no other

1 reasonable alternative option available for such student; and

2 (5) authorize a student to contact the student's parent or person acting
3 as parent through the use of a school telephone or other communications
4 device that is designated and made available by the school for such
5 purpose.

6 (b) The board of education of a school district and governing
7 authority of an accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school may
8 adopt policies and procedures that limit or prohibit use of personal
9 electronic communication devices by students during school-sponsored
10 activities or events that occur outside of the normal hours of the school
11 day.

12 (c) As used in this section, "personal electronic communication
13 device" means any wireless electronic communication device that:

14 (1) Provides for voice, text or video communication between two or
15 more parties, including, but not limited to, a mobile or cellular phone,
16 tablet, computer, watch, wireless headphones or earbuds, text messaging
17 device or personal digital assistant; and

18 (2) is not owned or issued to students by the school district or
19 accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school.

20 New Sec. 2. (a) Each board of education of a school district and
21 governing authority of an accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary
22 school shall adopt policies and procedures to prohibit each employee of
23 the school district or accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school
24 from privately or directly communicating with any student via a social
25 media platform for official school purposes except as otherwise provided
26 in subsection (b).

27 (b) The board of education of a school district or governing authority
28 of an accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school may approve a
29 social media platform to be used for official school purposes.

30 (c) As used in this section:

31 (1) "Official school purposes" means the broadcasting or posting of
32 public, one-way communications that pertain to school functions, activities
33 or events. "Official school purposes" does not include private
34 communications, direct communications or two-way communications with
35 any student.

36 (2) "Social media platform" means any online website, application,
37 computer software or other internet medium that permits a person to
38 become a registered user, establish an account or create a profile for the
39 purpose of allowing the person to create, share and view user-generated
40 content through such account or profile. "Social media platform" includes,
41 but is not limited to, snapchat, instagram, facebook, X and tiktok.

42 New Sec. 3. (a) On or before September 1, 2026, each board of
43 education of a school district and governing authority of an accredited

1 nonpublic elementary or secondary school shall submit the following to
2 the state board of education on a form and in the manner prescribed by the
3 state board:

4 (1) A certification that the board of education of the school district or
5 governing authority of the accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary
6 school has adopted the policies and procedures required pursuant to
7 sections 1 and 2, and amendments thereto; and

8 (2) a report on the average amount of time that students who are
9 attending the school district or accredited nonpublic elementary school in
10 grades one through four spend on an electronic device with a screen during
11 a typical school day, including any such device that is owned or issued by
12 the school district or governing authority of the accredited nonpublic
13 elementary or secondary school, such as a tablet, laptop or desktop
14 computer, phone, e-reader or any other electronic device that includes a
15 screen. Each board of education of a school district and governing
16 authority of an accredited nonpublic elementary school shall collect and
17 report such information as aggregate data for each such grade level if no
18 personally identifiable student data is collected or reported. The state
19 department of education shall publish each such report on the website of
20 the state department of education.

21 (b) The state board of education may establish rules and regulations
22 or other guidance as the board determines necessary to carry out the
23 provisions of this section.

24 New Sec. 4. The provisions of sections 1 through 3, and amendments
25 thereto, and any policies and procedures adopted thereunder, shall not
26 apply to any virtual school as defined in K.S.A. 72-3712, and amendments
27 thereto.

28 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
29 publication in the statute book.