

**BUCKHOLTS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
CELL PHONE/DEVICE PROCEDURE
(Pending BISD Board Action)**

In accordance with Texas House Bill 1481 Buckholts ISD has adjusted its cell phone policy, district-wide. Starting with the 2025-2026 school year, a new Texas law (HB 1481) mandates that school districts limit student use of personal communication devices during the school day. In compliance with this law, Buckholts ISD will require all students to leave their electronic devices at home or power them off and store them away while on campus. Personal devices will not be permitted for use at any time during school hours. This legislation aims to reduce distractions, safeguard student privacy, and enhance the overall learning environment.

Student Telecommunications Device Policy

Students are not permitted to use cell phones, smartwatches, AirPods, earbuds/headphones, personal laptops, personal tablets or any other personal telecommunications devices during the school day.

All devices must be turned off and kept in the student's backpack from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., as well as before entering any school buildings at any time. (Devices cannot be in pockets or on your person at any time.)

Unauthorized use of any telecommunications device during school hours will result in the confiscation of the device.

If a student needs to contact a parent or guardian during the school day, they must request permission to use the office phone.

Students placed in DAEP or ISS for any reason are not allowed to bring cell phones/devices on campus until their term is complete.

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

Campus staff and administrators will clearly state expectations and reinforce the importance of maintaining a cell phone-free environment at the beginning of each school year. Campus staff and administrators will monitor cell phone violations with a continued focus on the reduction of educational distractions caused by using cell phones, smart watches, AirPods/earbuds/headphones, during the school day. **Refusal to comply with any portion of this policy or refusal to relinquish a device upon request will result in automatic DAEP placement (Pending Hearing).**

PROCESS FOR CELL PHONES/DEVICES

Start of the school day, students will:

Turn off cell phones/devices off and place in backpack, out of sight, before arriving on campus.

During school day, students will:

- Keep their cell phone, smart watches, AirPods/earbuds/headphones etc. off and inside their backpack for the duration of the school day. (Devices cannot be in pockets or on your person.)
- Not access their devices during the school day.
- If your child's 504 Plan, Individualized Education Program (IEP), or Individual Health Plan (IHP) includes the use of a cell phone for medical or educational purposes—such as managing diabetes, using assistive technology, —they will be permitted to use their phone as part of their approved accommodations only. All other expectations will be enforced. Parents should reach out to the campus for prior approval.

End of school day, students will:

- Be allowed to use their devices at 4:00 after exiting the school building.

CONSEQUENCES

The following chart outlines the progression of consequences for students who violate the cell phone-free environment procedure. Violations include having a cell phone, smart watch, AirPods/earbuds/headphones, or any similar device not in your backpack, visible during the school day, or found in use.

Warning	• Cell phone/device, will be collected from the student. • Parent or guardian will be notified. • Parent/Guardian must pick up the phone in the front office. (Student can not pick up the phone/device)
1st Offense	• Cell phone/device, will be collected from the student. • Parent or guardian will be notified. • Student assigned 1 day of ISS. • Parent/Guardian may pick up the phone in the front office upon completion of ISS term. (Student can not pick up the phone/device)
2nd Offense	• Cell phone/device, will be collected from the student. • Parent or guardian will be notified.

	• Student assigned 2 days of ISS. • Parent/Guardian may pick up the phone in the front office upon completion of ISS term. (Student can not pick up the phone/device)
3rd Offense	• Cell phone/device, will be collected from the student. • Parent or guardian will be notified. • Student assigned 3 days of ISS. • Parent/Guardian may pick up the phone in the front office upon completion of ISS term. (Student can not pick up the phone/device)
4th Offense	• Cell phone/device, will be collected from the student and confiscated for the remainder of the school year. • Parent or guardian will be notified. • DAEP placement hearing