



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5149

LCO No. 1196



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING PHONE-FREE SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-233j of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 (a) No student in a public school in the state shall possess or use a
4 remotely activated paging device unless such student obtains the
5 written permission of the school principal for such possession and use.
6 The principal shall grant such permission only if the student or [his] the
7 student's parent or guardian establishes to the satisfaction of the
8 principal that a reasonable basis exists for the possession and use of the
9 device.

10 [(b) A local or regional board of education may restrict the student
11 possession or use of cellular mobile telephones in the schools under its
12 jurisdiction. In determining whether to restrict such possession or use,
13 the local or regional board of education shall consider the special needs
14 of parents and students.]

15 (b) (1) As used in this subsection:

16 (A) "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other portable
17 electronic equipment capable of providing data communication
18 between two or more individuals, including, but not limited to, a
19 cellular mobile telephone, a text messaging device, a paging device, a
20 personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, equipment that is capable
21 of playing a video game or a digital video disk or equipment on which
22 digital images are taken or transmitted; and

23 (B) "Personal mobile electronic device" means a mobile electronic
24 device that is owned by or otherwise under the control of a student or
25 parent or guardian of a student and has not been issued to such student
26 or another student by the local or regional board of education.

27 (2) In accordance with the local policy adopted pursuant to
28 subdivision (3) of this subsection, no student enrolled in grades
29 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, in a public school in the state shall
30 possess or use a personal mobile electronic device during the regular
31 school day, except a student shall be permitted to possess or use a
32 personal mobile electronic device if such possession or use is necessary
33 to implement the provisions of an individualized education program for
34 such student or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
35 of 1973, as amended from time to time, for such student.

36 (3) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and
37 adopt a local policy restricting the student possession or use of personal
38 mobile electronic devices during the regular school day. A board shall
39 consider the unique needs of teachers, administrators, parents and
40 guardians and students in the school district. Such local policy shall
41 include, but need not be limited to, (A) a prohibition on such possession
42 or use by students on school grounds during the regular school day, (B)
43 provisions regarding the storage of personal mobile electronic devices
44 during the regular school day, including a requirement that such
45 personal mobile electronic devices are inaccessible to students while in
46 such storage, (C) a system of discipline for violating the provisions of
47 such local policy, and (D) provisions regarding the student use of

48 personal mobile electronic devices during the regular school day to
49 implement the provisions of an individualized education program for
50 such student or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
51 of 1973, as amended from time to time, for such student.

52 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) No local or regional board of
53 education may use social media as the exclusive means of directly
54 communicating with, or otherwise providing notice or information to,
55 students and the parents and guardians of students enrolled in a school
56 under the jurisdiction of the board. As used in this section, "social
57 media" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-231c of the
58 general statutes.

59 Sec. 3. Subdivision (8) of section 10-222aa of the general statutes is
60 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
61 *2026*):

62 (8) "Mobile electronic device" [means any hand-held or other portable
63 electronic equipment capable of providing data communication
64 between two or more individuals, including, but not limited to, a text
65 messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital assistant, a laptop
66 computer, equipment that is capable of playing a video game or a digital
67 video disk or equipment on which digital images are taken or
68 transmitted] has the same meaning as provided in section 10-233j, as
69 amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-233j
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-222aa(8)

Statement of Purpose:

To limit the use of cell phones during the school day and to prohibit school districts from using social media as the only means of providing information to families.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]