



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5149

February Session, 2026



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 Section 10-233j of the general statutes is repealed and the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 paging 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 (A) to implement the provisions of an individualized education
34 program for such student or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the
35 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, for such
36 student, or (B) for the health and well-being of such student as
37 determined by a licensed physician, physician assistant or advanced
38 practice registered nurse.

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

51 individualized education program for such student or a plan pursuant
52 to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time
53 to time, for such student, or (ii) if a licensed physician, physician
54 assistant or advanced practice registered nurse has determined that
55 such possession or use is necessary for the health and well-being of such
56 student.

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

64 Sec. 3. Subdivision (8) of section 10-222aa of the general statutes is
65 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
66 *2026*):

67 (8) "Mobile electronic device" [means any hand-held or other portable
68 electronic equipment capable of providing data communication
69 between two or more individuals, including, but not limited to, a text
70 messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital assistant, a laptop
71 computer, equipment that is capable of playing a video game or a digital
72 video disk or equipment on which digital images are taken or
73 transmitted] has the same meaning as provided in section 10-233j, as
74 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 Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), opening and closing brackets were inserted around "remotely activated" and "paging" was added before "device", for consistency.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*