



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4832



Offered by:
REP. MASTROFRANCESCO, 80th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5035 File No. 402 Cal. No. 286

(As Amended by House Amendment Schedule "A")

"AN ACT REQUIRING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO BAN CELLULAR PHONES IN THE CLASSROOM."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 10-233j of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2027*):

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

11 (b) A local or regional board of education may restrict the student
12 possession or use of cellular mobile telephones in the schools under its

13 jurisdiction. In determining whether to restrict such possession or use,
14 the local or regional board of education shall consider the special needs
15 of parents and students.]

16 (a) As used in this section:

17 (1) "Wireless communication device" means any portable wireless
18 device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging or other data
19 communication between two or more parties, including, but not limited
20 to, a (A) cellular mobile telephone, (B) tablet computer, (C) computer or
21 laptop computer, (D) gaming device, or (E) smart watch;

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

27 (3) "Access" means holding, viewing, wearing or otherwise using a
28 wireless communication device for the purpose of communication,
29 accessing the Internet, gaming or any other function commonly
30 associated with a wireless communication device;

31 (4) "Student" means a child enrolled in (A) a preschool program
32 operated by a local or regional board of education, or (B) grade
33 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, in a public school in this state; and

34 (5) "Social media" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-
35 231c.

36 (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (2) of this
37 subsection, no student, teacher or administrator shall be permitted to
38 access or use such student's, teacher's or administrator's personal
39 wireless communication device on school grounds during the regular
40 school day. All such personal wireless communication devices shall be
41 powered off and stored in a manner prescribed by the policy adopted
42 by the local or regional board of education pursuant to subsection (d) of

43 this section.

44 (2) A student, teacher or administrator may access and use a personal
45 wireless communication device on school grounds during the regular
46 school day if (A) such use or access is required under such student's
47 individualized education program, in accordance with the Individuals
48 with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and sections 10-
49 76a to 10-76000, inclusive, or is necessary to implement the provisions
50 of an accommodations plan for such student pursuant to Section 504 of
51 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, for such
52 student, (B) a licensed physician, physician assistant or advanced
53 practice registered nurse determines that such use or access is necessary
54 for the health and well-being of such student, teacher or administrator,
55 or (C) such use or access is limited to a computer, laptop computer or
56 tablet computer for instructional purposes only and authorized under
57 the policy adopted by the local or regional board of education pursuant
58 to subsection (d) of this section.

59 (c) No student, teacher or administrator may access any social media
60 platforms through the use of the Internet provided by the school during
61 the school day, except such access to a social media platform may be
62 permitted when such access is for instructional purposes.

63 (d) Each local and regional board of education shall adopt, and
64 update as necessary, a policy restricting the student, teacher and
65 administrator access or use of personal wireless communication devices
66 during the regular school day. A board shall consider the unique needs
67 of teachers, administrators, parents and guardians and students in the
68 school district. Such policy shall include, but need not be limited to, (1)
69 a prohibition on the access or use of personal wireless communication
70 devices by students, teachers and administrators on school grounds
71 during the regular school day, (2) provisions permitting the student,
72 teacher or administrator access or use of personal wireless
73 communication devices during the regular school day in accordance
74 with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,
75 (3) provisions regarding the storage of personal wireless

76 communication devices during the regular school day, including, but
 77 not limited to, in a student's locker or in a specified location, (4) a system
 78 of enforcement and discipline for violating the provisions of this section
 79 or such policy, and (5) procedures for communicating between boards
 80 of education and parents and guardians of students in the event of an
 81 emergency that occurs during the regular school day.

82 (e) Each local and regional board of education shall annually notify
 83 the parents and guardians of students regarding the policy adopted
 84 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section and include such policy in the
 85 student handbooks for the school district.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2027</i>	10-233j
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section