



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4481



Offered by:

REP. LEEPER, 132nd Dist.
SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
REP. RUTIGLIANO, 123rd Dist.
REP. RADER, 98th Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5035

File No. 402

Cal. No. 286

"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 Section 10-233j of the general statutes is repealed and the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 possessing, viewing, wearing or otherwise using
28 a 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 shall be permitted to access or use such student's
38 personal wireless communication device on school grounds during the
39 regular school day. All such personal wireless communication devices
40 shall be powered off and stored in a manner prescribed by the policy
41 adopted by the local or regional board of education pursuant to
42 subsection (d) of this section.

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

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

61 (d) Each local and regional board of education shall adopt, and
62 update as necessary, a policy restricting the student access or use of
63 personal wireless communication devices during the regular school
64 day. A board shall consider the unique needs of teachers,
65 administrators, parents and guardians and students in the school
66 district. Such policy shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a
67 prohibition on the access or use of personal wireless communication
68 devices by students on school grounds during the regular school day,
69 (2) provisions permitting the student access or use of personal wireless
70 communication devices during the regular school day in accordance
71 with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,
72 (3) provisions regarding the storage of personal wireless
73 communication devices during the regular school day, including, but
74 not limited to, in a student's locker or in a specified location, (4) a system
75 of enforcement and discipline for violating the provisions of this section

76 or such policy, and (5) procedures for communicating between boards
77 of education and parents and guardians of students in the event of an
78 emergency that occurs during the regular school day.

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

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