

HB 781-FN - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

13Mar2025... 0733h

2025 SESSION

25-0843

02/09

HOUSE BILL 781-FN

AN ACT requiring school districts to adopt policies establishing a cell phone-free education.

SPONSORS: Rep. Litchfield, Rock. 32

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Administration

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires school districts to adopt policies governing student cell phone use in schools.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five*

AN ACT requiring school districts to adopt policies establishing a cell phone-free education.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Paragraph; Cell Phone Use Policy. Amend RSA 189:1-a by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. School boards and the board of trustees of chartered public schools shall develop and adopt a policy governing the use of student cell phones and other personal electronic communication devices in schools. The policy shall, at a minimum, restrict the use of student personal cell phones during class instruction, with approved exceptions determined by the superintendent or their designee with respect to student medical, disability, or language proficiency needs. School district policies shall not prohibit students with medical needs, such as insulin pumps and glucose sensors, or disabilities from using a device to support their learning as identified by their individualized education program (IEP), plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, or when required to support emergent multilingual students with appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

LBA
25-0843
4/15/25

HB 781-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2025-0733h)

AN ACT requiring school districts to adopt policies establishing a cell phone-free education.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable		

METHODOLOGY:

This bill, assumed to be effective for the 2025-2026 school year, requires public schools to adopt policies to limit the use of smartphones by students. Costs associated with this bill, if any, are indeterminable and would vary from district to district.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education