

Wellman Union CISD Cell Phone Policy 2025-2026

Possession and Use of Personal Communications Devices, Including Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Wellman Union ISD is committed to minimizing distractions and maximizing learning, and this new policy is intended to help achieve that goal. Parents and students are encouraged to review the specific details outlined in the official Student Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year for a complete understanding of the updated policy and any related disciplinary consequences.

Secondary Students

In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the use of a personal communication device (such as cell phones, tablets, and smartwatches) during instruction time and passing periods of the school day. Secondary students may use their phone before and after school and during lunch time. For more information about permitted use in certain circumstances and disciplinary measures that apply to this prohibition, see the Student Code of Conduct and policy FNCE(LOCAL).

Elementary Students

In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the use of a personal communication device (such as cell phones, tablets, and smartwatches) during instructional school day. For more information about permitted use in certain circumstances and disciplinary measures that apply to this prohibition, see the Student Code of Conduct and policy FNCE(LOCAL).

House Bill 1481

The use of cell phones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

As a result of House Bill 1481, a new state law in Texas, Wellman Union Independent School District will be implementing a new cell phone policy for the 2025-2026 school year.

This law prohibits student use of personal communication devices, including cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, and other devices capable of calling, texting, recording, or storing information, during the school day.

Here's what this means for students at Wellman Union ISD for the upcoming school year

- No personal device use during the school day: Students are generally prohibited from using personal communication devices during the school day.
- Devices must be powered off and stored: Devices must be turned off and kept out of sight, in a secure location such as a locker or backpack throughout the school day.
- Instructional use of devices: While personal devices are generally prohibited, Wellman Union CISD encourages students to use their district-issued devices for educational purposes as part of their 1:1 technology program. These devices are

filtered for inappropriate content and should be used responsibly for learning activities.

- Emergencies: If a student needs to make an emergency call during instructional time, they should go to the school office.
- Accommodations for students with disabilities or medical needs: There will be accommodations for students who require a personal electronic device as part of an approved medical assistance plan, IEP, or 504 Plan.

If a student uses a personal communications device without authorization during the school day, the student will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

- 1st offense – Verbal Warning
- 2nd offense – Student will pick up from the office at the end of the school day.
- 3rd offense – Parent must pick up the confiscated communications device from the office.
- Repeated offense could result in disciplinary action and/or loss of privileges.

Confiscated communications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student's parent will be stored in accordance with administrative regulations. [See policy FNCE for more information.]

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal communications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See **Error! Reference source not found.** and policy FNF for more information.]

The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen communications devices.

Policies subject to change; pending final approval.