



**COALITION OF
OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS**

Coalition of Oregon School Administrators
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Date: May 12, 2025
To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Morgan Allen, COSA
Subject: House Bill 2251A - K-12 Cell Phone Policies

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education.

My name is Morgan Allen and I am here today on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 3,000 members across Oregon. We are asking the Senate Education Committee to not advance House Bill 2251A as currently drafted.

This bill requires all school districts to institute a bell to bell ban on the use of electronic devices, like cell phones, during the school day. While the bill creates some exemptions for students with medical conditions, IEPs, or 504 plans, our members still have concerns with impacts on students who need to be in contact with parents, siblings, or employers during the day, and the one size fits all nature of a statewide ban.

In October of 2024 ODE released [Guidance for School Cell Phone Policies](#) for K-12 schools in Oregon, based on best practices and the latest research. The very first “key recommendation” for the development of cell phone policies is listed on page 9 of the guidance document:

- *“Develop policy and implementation plans with input from staff, students, and the community. To build staff, student and community buy-in, incorporate their input at every stage—design, implementation, and review—helping to shape both the policy and its implementation plans. Input could come from groups such as student leadership and school site councils which include parent/caregiver input, as well as labor associations.”*

Our first concern with the bill as currently drafted is that it is “top down” and not locally developed or implemented, which is a recommended best practice for implementation. Our second concern is that there is language on page 2, lines 40 and 41 of the bill that says the policy banning cell phones must “provide consequences for a student’s violation” and that this is all a Division 22 requirement, meaning this is required to be considered a standard school in Oregon and receive State School Fund dollars. We cannot remember seeing a bill in recent legislative sessions mandating undefined “consequences” for students. Finally, districts already have the authority to ban or limit the use of cell phones, and many of them have already done this without a one-size-fits all mandate from the state.

Our recommendation is that we begin with the -3 amendment that was proposed in the House as a starting point for discussions to amend the bill in the Senate Education Committee. We look forward to working collaboratively with the proponents and partners on changes to the bill before final approval.

Thank you for your time today and I would be happy to answer any questions.