

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Parker, Norwood

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2151

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, PUBLIC CHARTER
2 SCHOOL AND AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND CERTAIN STATE HIGH
3 SCHOOLS, TO ADOPT AND SEND TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
4 NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2026, A SPECIFIC POLICY BANNING THE
5 POSSESSION, OR RESTRICTING THE USE, OF CELL PHONES BY STUDENTS
6 DURING CLASS OR WHILE UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF A
7 SCHOOL EMPLOYEE; TO PROVIDE THAT, IF A SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT
8 FAILS TO ADOPT AND TRANSMIT A POLICY AS REQUIRED, THE STATE
9 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL DEDUCT ONE DAY'S WORTH OF THE
10 SCHOOL'S OR DISTRICT'S FUNDS UNDER THE TOTAL FUNDING FORMULA FOR
11 EACH DAY AFTER JANUARY 1, 2026, THAT THE SCHOOL OR DISTRICT IS
12 NONCOMPLIANT; TO PROVIDE FOR POTENTIAL EXCEPTIONS WHICH ALLOW
13 STUDENTS TO POSSESS OR USE CELL PHONES UNDER CERTAIN
14 CIRCUMSTANCES; TO PROVIDE THAT SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR SUSPENSION OR
15 EXPULSION MAY NOT CONSIST OF ONLY A VIOLATION OF THE CELL PHONE
16 POSSESSION AND USE POLICY DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED UNDER THIS
17 ACT, EXCEPT THAT SUSPENSION MAY BE USED AS A DISCIPLINARY MEASURE
18 OF LAST RESORT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

20 **SECTION 1.** (1) (a) Each public school district, public
21 charter school and agricultural high school, the Mississippi
22 Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, the Mississippi School of the
23 Arts, and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science
24 shall, no later than January 1, 2026, adopt and send to the State
25 Department of Education a specific policy banning the possession,
26 or restricting the use, of cell phones by students during class or



27 while under the supervision and control of a school employee. The
28 State Department of Education shall retain a copy of the policy on
29 file.

30 (b) If a school or school district fails to adopt and
31 transmit a policy as required in this subsection, the State
32 Department of Education shall deduct one (1) day's worth of the
33 school's or district's funds under the total funding formula for
34 each day after January 1, 2026, that the school or district is
35 noncompliant.

36 (2) In developing and adopting a policy under this section,
37 a school or district may include exceptions to allow a student to
38 possess or use a cell phone under any of the following
39 circumstances:

40 (a) In the case of an emergency, or in response to a
41 perceived threat of danger;

42 (b) When a licensed advanced practice registered nurse,
43 physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use of a
44 cell phone is medically necessary for the health or well-being of
45 the student; or

46 (c) When the possession or use of a cell phone is
47 required in a student's individualized education program.

48 (3) Students may be suspended or expelled from attendance at
49 school for sufficient cause; however, in no case may sufficient
50 cause for suspension or expulsion consist of only a violation of
51 the cell phone possession and use policy developed and implemented



52 under this section, except that suspension may be used as a
53 disciplinary measure of last resort.

54 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after July 1, 2025.

