

Runge ISD Student Personal Electronic Device Policy

Effective Beginning 2025–2026 School Year

Board Approved: July 28, 2025

In accordance with Texas Education Code §38.0232 and House Bill 1481, Runge ISD has established the following district-wide policy regarding student possession and use of personal electronic devices during the instructional day.

Definition of Personal Electronic Devices

For the purposes of this policy, personal electronic devices include but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches
- Earbuds, AirPods, or headphones
- Tablets, laptops, or e-readers not issued by the school
- Any other device capable of wireless communication, audio/video recording, or streaming

Permitted Possession – Cell Phones Only

Students are allowed to bring a personal cell phone to school under the following conditions:

- **Phones must be powered off upon entering the school building**
- **Phones must remain inside the student's backpack at all times** during the instructional day, including transitions, restroom breaks, and lunch
- Phones **may not be carried in pockets, on lanyards, in clothing, or on the student's person** at any time
- **All other personal electronic devices (e.g., smartwatches, AirPods, headphones)** are strictly prohibited on campus and may not be brought to school

Confiscation and Retrieval Procedures

- Any student found to have a cell phone or other device on their person—**regardless of whether the device is in use**—will have the device confiscated by school personnel
- Confiscated devices will be held in the principal's office
- The student or parent/guardian may retrieve the device upon payment of a **\$15 administrative fee**
- Devices will be returned **only during regular school hours and only by the campus principal or designee** once the fee is collected

Disciplinary Consequences

Repeated violations of this policy may result in:

- Parent conferences
- Temporary loss of privilege to bring a phone to school
- Additional disciplinary action in accordance with the Runge ISD Student Code of Conduct

Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy will be granted only for:

- A documented accommodation through a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan
- A documented medical need authorized by a licensed physician
- Emergency use as directed by a school administrator or safety protocol