

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2043 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY GLEIM, DIAMOND, BANTA, KEEFER, D'ORSIE, ZIMMERMAN,  
GILLEN AND STAATS, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in pupils and attendance, providing  
6 for possession and use of mobile devices.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 1317.4. Possession and Use of Mobile Devices.--(a)  
13 Except as otherwise provided in this section, a student of a  
14 public school entity may not possess or use a mobile device  
15 during the school day in a school building of the public school  
16 entity.

17 (b) (1) Upon entering the school building at the beginning  
18 of the school day, a student who has in the student's possession  
19 a mobile device shall deposit the mobile device in a lockbox,  
20 case or pouch with a locking mechanism or other secure location

1 for the duration of the school day.

2 (2) At the end of the school day, the student may retrieve  
3 the mobile device from the lockbox, case, pouch or other secure  
4 location.

5 (c) Subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to a student if:

6 (1) The student:

7 (i) is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or  
8 rescue squad;

9 (ii) has a need for the mobile device due to the medical  
10 condition of the student or an immediate family member of the  
11 student;

12 (iii) has a disability;

13 (iv) is an English language learner and uses the mobile  
14 device for translation purposes; or

15 (v) is at a scheduled lunch period.

16 (2) An authority of the public school entity approves of the  
17 possession and use of the mobile device by the student during  
18 the school day in a school building of the public school entity.

19 (d) A public school entity shall develop or update its  
20 written policies to implement this section. The written policies  
21 shall include a process for students and parents to contact each  
22 other during the school day.

23 (e) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
24 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

25 "Mobile device" means a personal mobile telephone or other  
26 portable electronic communication device, not owned by a public  
27 school entity or issued by a public school entity to a student,  
28 with which a user engages in a call or writes or sends a message  
29 or a device in which the user plays a game or watches a video.

30 "Public school entity" means a school district, area career

1 and technical school, intermediate unit, charter school, cyber  
2 charter school or regional charter school.

3 "School day" means the length of time that a child subject to  
4 compulsory school attendance is expected to be receiving  
5 instruction during a calendar day, as determined by the  
6 governing body.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.