



State Policy Landscape: Cellphone Use in Schools

Pennsylvania Senate Education Committee | October 21, 2025

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How NCSL Strengthens Legislatures



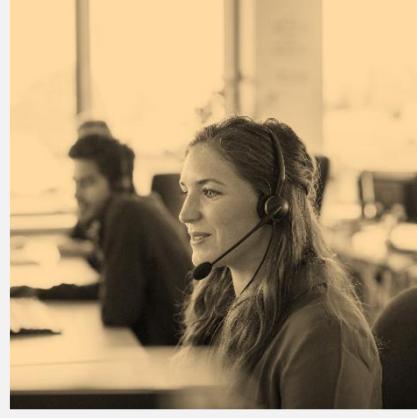
Policy Research

NCSL provides trusted, nonpartisan policy research and analysis



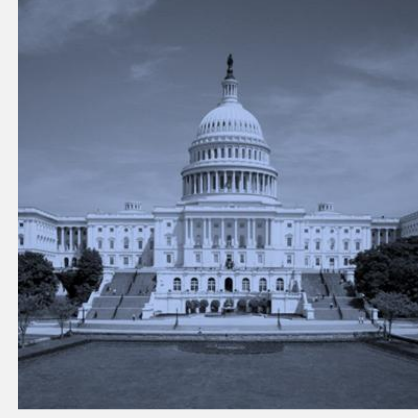
Connections

NCSL links legislators and staff with each other and with experts



Training

NCSL delivers training tailored specifically for legislators and staff



State Voice in D.C.

NCSL represents and advocates on behalf of states on Capitol Hill



Meetings

NCSL meetings facilitate information exchange and policy discussions



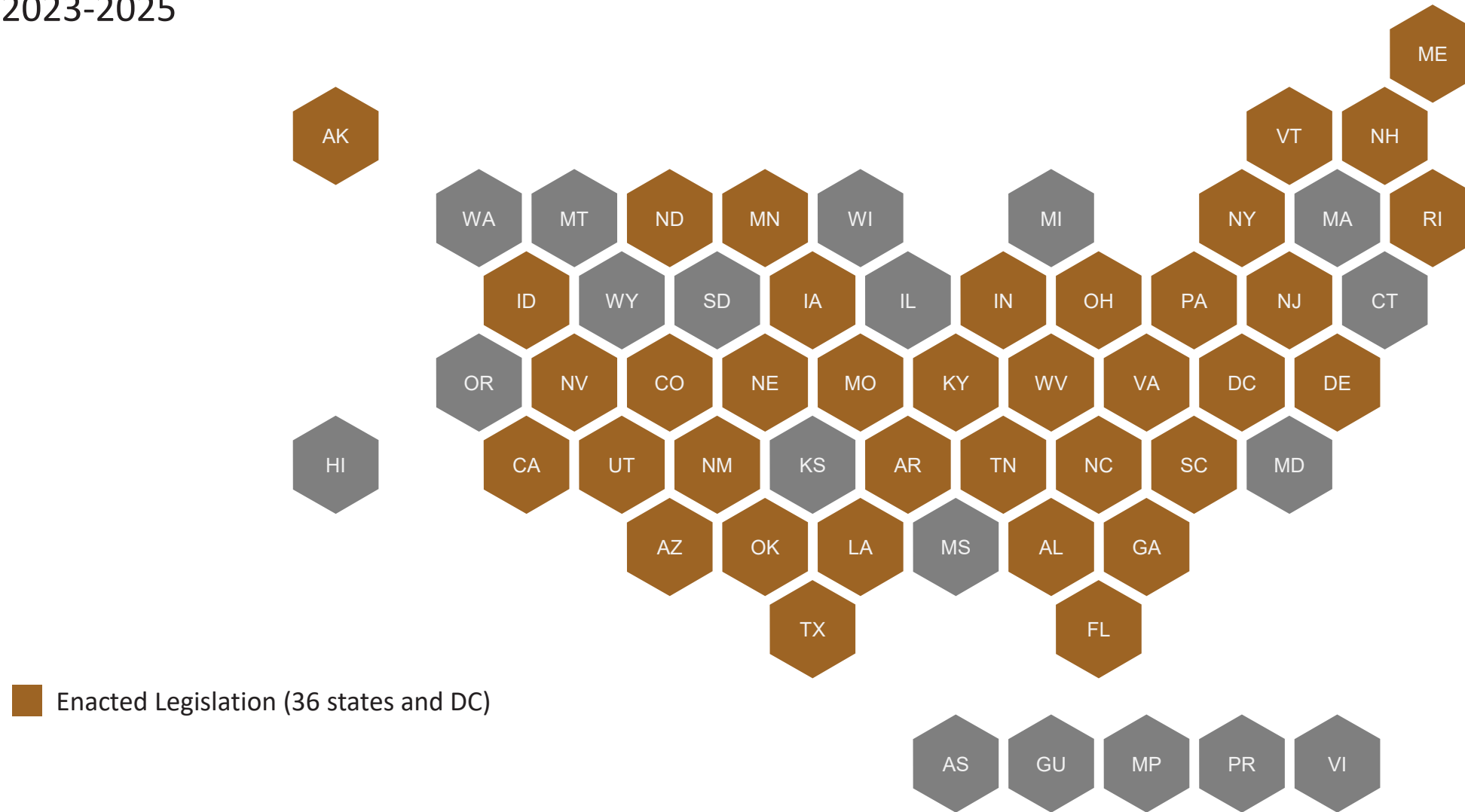
State Legislative Activity

Enacted Legislation (2023-2025)



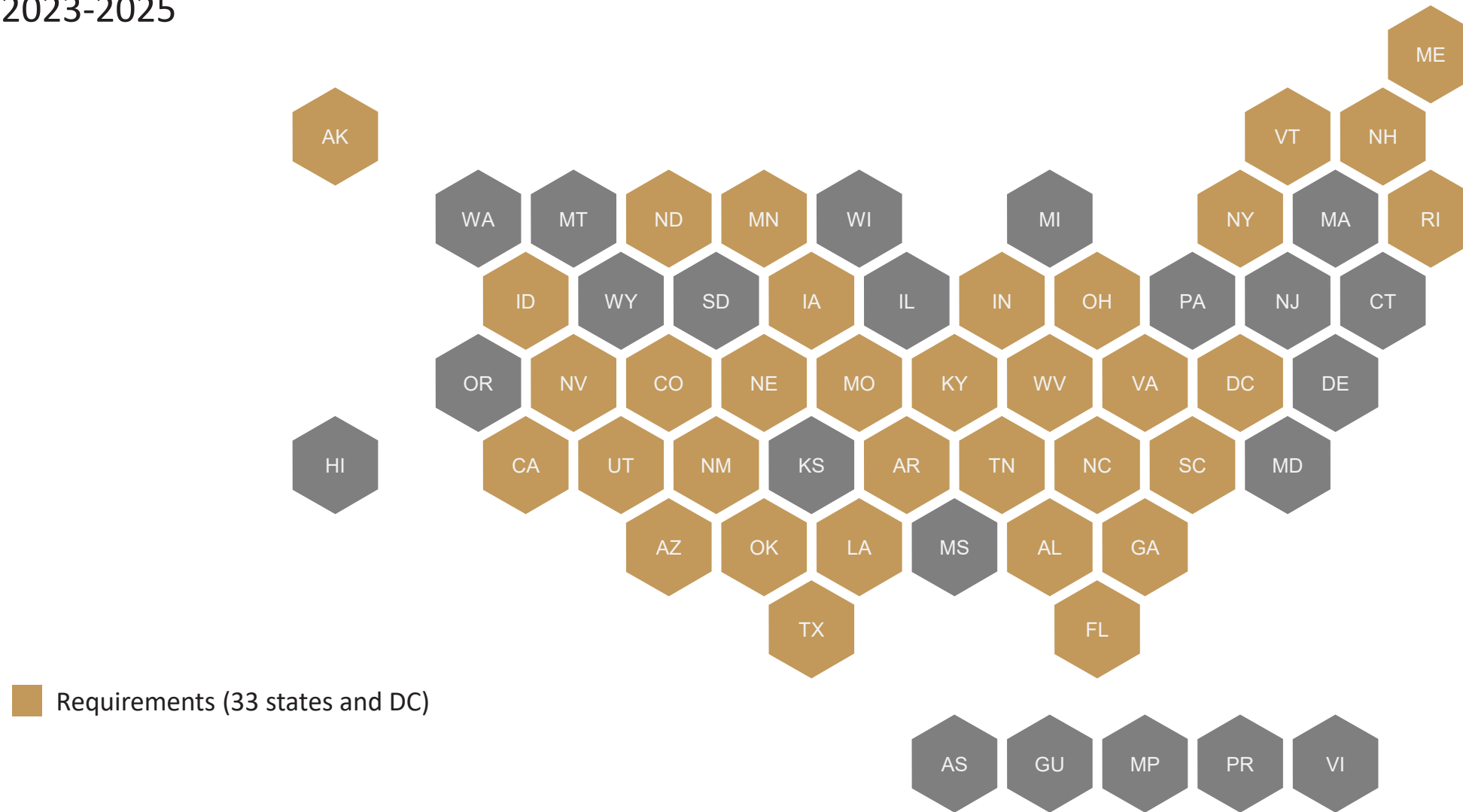
Enacted Legislation on Cellphone Use in Schools

2023-2025



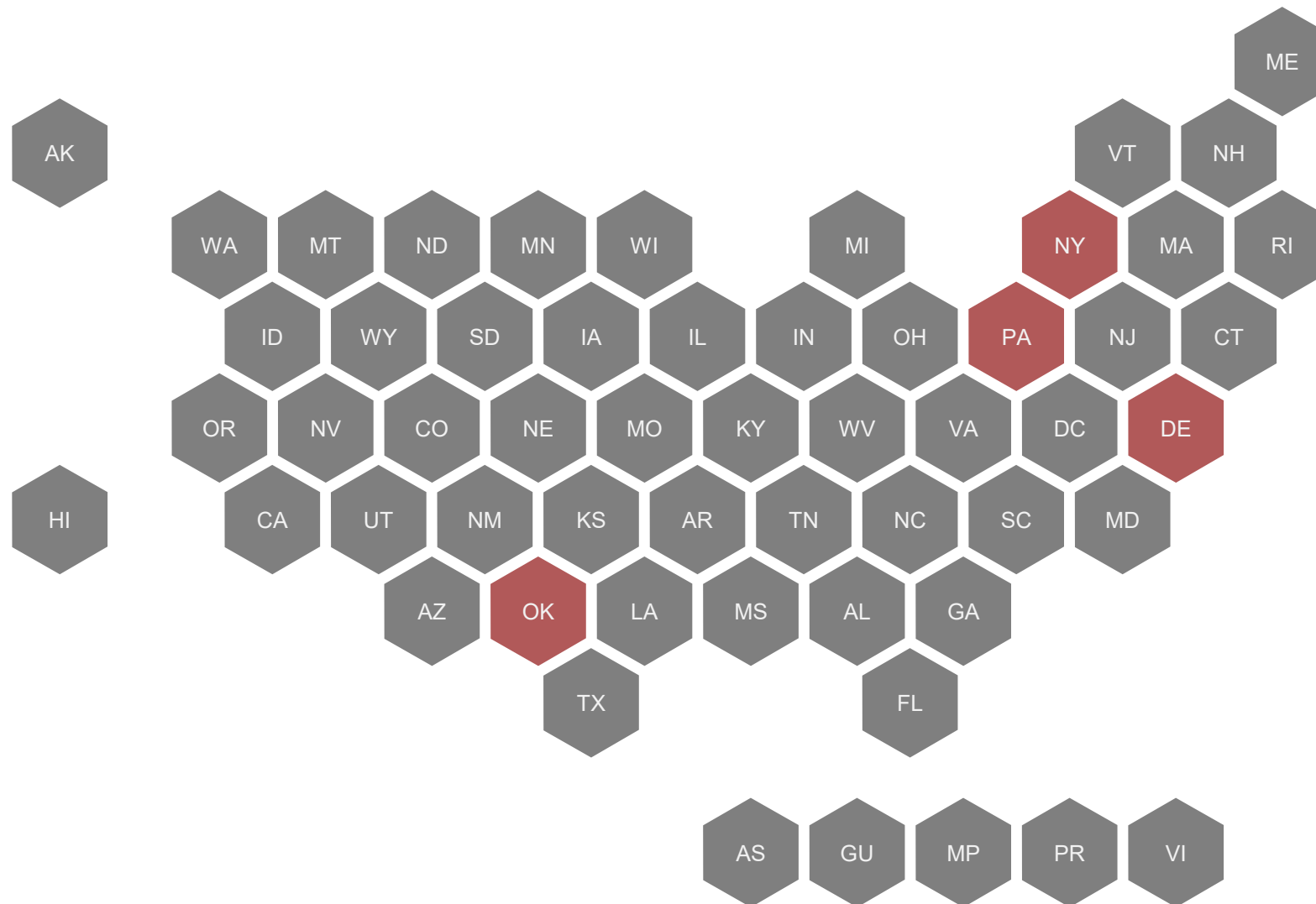
Enacted Legislation: Requirements

2023-2025



Enacted Legislation: Incentives

2023-2025



 Incentives (4 states)

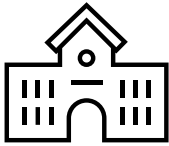


Requirements for Cellphone Use in Schools

Enacted Legislation (2023-2025)

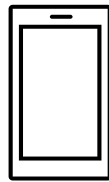
Requirements for Cellphone Use in Schools

Inside Enacted Legislation



Provisions and Parameters

- Guidance, incentives, and requirements
- Policy development and review



Conditions on Use and Exemptions

- General policies, restrictions, and prohibitions relating to students' use of cellphones
- Exemptions for specified circumstances and teacher discretion



Additional Provisions

- Implementation and enforcement
- Communication procedures
- Accountability and transparency
- Digital literacy, internet safety and the use of technology and social media in schools

NCSL Resources

[SLN Article: Hold the Phone: Recent State Activity on Cell Use in Schools](#) (October 2024)

This article covers state activity on cellphone use in schools and provides summaries of legislation enacted between 2023 and 2024.

[State of Play: State Lawmakers Discuss Cellphone Bans in Schools](#) (November 2024)

This installment of “[State of Play](#),” a bipartisan video series created by [A Starting Point](#) and NCSL, features two legislators who discuss the pros and cons of banning or restricting cellphones.

[Pre-K-12 Education Legislation Database](#)

This database includes legislation on cellphones in schools; such legislation can be found under the ‘Technology in Education’ and ‘Personal Devices’ topics.

Education Legislation | Bill Tracking

Bill status current as of **October 17, 2025**.

Clear All Filters

State All **Year** 2025

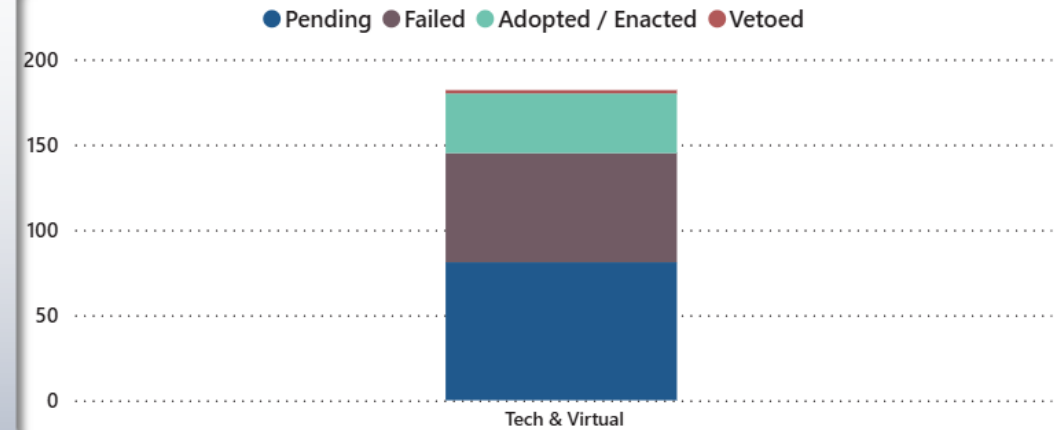
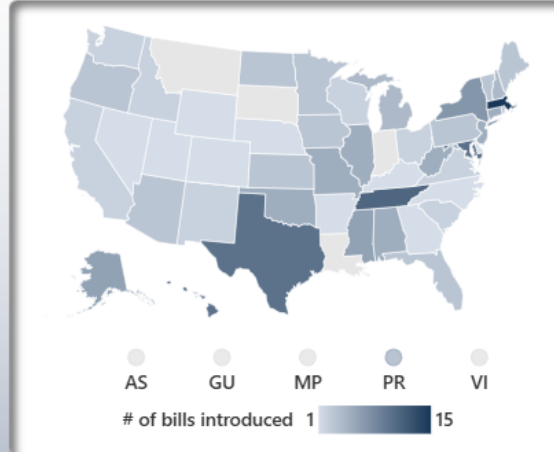
Bill Status All

Search bill summaries here

* ↩ OR ↗

182 bills introduced in
46 state(s), D.C. and 1 of 5 territories

- ☐ Parental Involvement
- > ☐ School Calendar and Attendance
- > ☐ School Choice
- > ☐ School Climate
- ☐ School Meals
- > ☐ School Safety
- ☐ Student Athletics
- > ☐ Student Groups
- > ☐ Student Mental Health
- > ☐ Student Supports
- ✓ ☒ Technology in Education and Virtual Learning
 - ☐ Distance and Virtual Learning
 - ✓ ☒ Personal Devices
 - ☐ Technology in Education
- ☐ Transportation



Bill	Bill Title	Bill Status	Date of Last Status	Bill Summary
Ala. House Bill 65 (2025)	Public K-12 education	Failed	February 3, 2025	Relates to education, requires the State Board of Education to adopt a model policy restricting the use of cell phones in public K-12 schools, requires each local board of education to adopt a policy based on that model.
Ala. House Bill 81 (2025)	Public Education	Failed	February 4, 2025	Relates to public kindergarten through 12 education, requires state board of education to adopt model student cell phone use policy, requires local boards of education to adopt cell phone use and storage policy.
Ala. House Bill 166 (2025)	FOCUS Act	Adopted / Enacted	May 14, 2025	Establishes the Freeing our Classrooms of Unnecessary Screens for Safety Act, provides that, beginning with the specified school year, no student shall use or operate any wireless communication device in any public elementary or secondary school building or grounds during the instructional day, provides that each local board of education shall adopt an Internet safety policy, provides that the State Department of Education shall develop and approve a course that addresses the risks of using social media.
Ala. Senate Bill 74 (2025)	State Board of Education	Failed	February 4, 2025	Relates to require the state board of education to create a cyber safety education program, provides parameters for the curriculum of the program and the training of instructors, requires the state board to adopt rules and



Thank you!

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