



HB 208: Implementing a Balanced Approach to Student Cell Phone Use in Kentucky Schools

What the bill does:

- Requires school districts to create policies prohibiting student cell phone use during school hours, except for emergencies and teaching purposes
- Directs the KDE to create rules blocking social media and inappropriate content on school devices
- Establishes statewide guidance but allows districts to decide how to apply the rules
- Aims to improve student focus, mental wellness, and learning by reducing distractions while teaching skills for using technology safely.

Why it matters:

This bill tackles digital distractions in classrooms by requiring consistent device policies, supporting Big Bold Future objectives that improve school climate and student engagement—essential building blocks for better academic outcomes and the durable skills students need for future success.

- **Better Student Focus:** Classrooms free from phone distractions help students concentrate, participate more, and learn better
- **Teaching Support:** Teachers can focus on education instead of managing devices
- **Stronger Relationships:** Limiting phones encourages face-to-face conversations and builds community
- **Future Readiness:** Schools can pair phone policies with digital literacy education to help students develop healthy tech habits
- **Effective Implementation:** Success requires everyone working together with the right tools and training



Making it work in the real world:

- **Collaborative Implementation:** Schools, families, and community partners need to work together on clear, consistent policies
- **Digital Education Balance:** Educators should teach responsible technology use alongside phone restrictions
- **Shared Learning:** Districts can share what works to help all Kentucky schools adopt effective practices
- **Family Partnerships:** Parents and guardians must reinforce healthy technology habits at home
- **Support Resources:** Schools need appropriate funding and resources to implement alternatives and storage solutions
- **Ongoing Evaluation:** Education stakeholders should collect data on the impact of these policies to guide future improvement