

PANOLA SCHOOLS

Cell Phone & Electronic Device Policy 2025-2026

Texas passed HB 1481 that requires public schools to ban student cell phone use during the school day. Personal electronic devices, including cell phones, Smartwatches, tablets, pagers, Bluetooth headphones, or other electronic devices, can disrupt instruction and compromise academic integrity, safety, and student well-being. This policy sets clear expectations for NO CELL PHONES during the school day. Panola Schools believes in providing a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment for all students.

General Rules

- If a device is brought to school, it **must be powered off** before entering the school. If phone or device is brought to school, student **will be required** to turn in and store in storage device. Each school campus will provide a storage device where phones will remain for the entire school day. This includes breaks, lunch and in restrooms. Devices cannot be stored in clothing pockets on the student.
- Students taking face-to-face dual-credit courses with Panola College or TSTC **will be required** to keep devices either in backpack or in pants pocket while on campus.
- Emergency Phone Use: Students may request phone access via the office. Parents should contact each school's front office during school hours.

Consequences for Violations

- 1ST Violation: Confiscated, student picks up at the end of the day.
- 2nd Violation: Confiscated, parent/guardian picks up device.
- 3rd Violation: Confiscated and mandatory parent/guardian meeting with campus principal.
- 4th Violation: Confiscated and banned from bringing device to school for remainder of school year.

Parent Expectations

Avoid texting/calling students during school. Contact the school office for emergencies. Review this policy with your child.

Special Circumstances

Students with medical/accessibility needs may get accommodations through ARD/504/RTI processes.

Panola Schools is committed to following the law. Policy will be reviewed yearly with input from staff, parents, and students to ensure it reflects the values of the Panola Schools community.

Panola Schools
1110 FM 10
Carthage, TX 75633
Central office: (903) 693-6355

Panola Charter School: 903-693-6355
Texas Early College High School: 903-936-4109 * Panola Early College High School 903-503-7784