
Office of Governor Tina Kotek

EO 25-09 Cell Phone Policy

Presentation for the House Education Committee
November 17, 2025



Key Information about EO 25-09

By **October 31, 2025**, all Oregon school districts were required to adopt a personal electronic device policy.

The policy must be implemented in full effect, no later than **January 1, 2026**.

District policies must:

- Describe how devices will be **stored**
- Provide guidance on responding to student violations
- Prohibit **disciplinary actions** that remove students from instruction (e.g., suspension or expulsion)
- Be **publicly posted** on the district website
- Allow device use when aligned with:
 - A **medical provider's** order
 - A student's **IEP or 504 Plan**
 - Individual approved exemptions

Executive Order 25-09 District Policy Update

- **School Districts with school board approved EO-aligned policy posted on their website as of Nov 10, 2025:**
Approximately 48% (95 of 196 school districts)
- **School Districts who have already implemented their EO-aligned policy as of Nov 10, 2025:**
Approximately 31% (60* of 196 school districts)

* 60 school districts have either a policy adopted date or policy effective date already in place. ESDs not yet reviewed.



What we've heard from School Leaders

- Overall positive responses
- Many started the school year with a policy
- Reduced incidents of bullying and harassment
- More conversations at lunch time
- Libraries are more active and book check out has increased

I personally think that this is one of the best things that the state of Oregon could have possibly done for the mental health and welfare of our kids in their learning environment.

The thing I have appreciated most about this change is that it's hopeful... I don't know what the impact will be long term... but I think everything in terms of our relationships with each other will be better.

What we've heard from High School Students

We would always talk to each other before the restriction, but it was always in our little bubbles... but now there is more talking outside our bubbles, and better learning. I feel more engaged, it's like there is way more paying attention.

The number one thing [students] are all concerned about is that we feel like our safety is not being regarded. We want to be able to contact our parents if something goes wrong at school. It is 2025 and in this country, we want to feel safe at school. It impacts our well being and our concern for safety.

I actually like not having my headphones on all the time, I feel less stressed for some reason. I feel like I have less anxiety feeling like I have to answer texts and messages all the time... My school is pretty small, and so everyone knows about my medical exemption [to have their phone out for glucose monitoring] so it's not a problem, I don't feel nervous about checking it.



Executive Order 25-09 ODE Resources

- **ODE PED Toolkit Website**: The PED Toolkit offers the tools and resources to help school leaders, educators, family members, and community partners understand, implement, and sustain PED policies in ways that are developmentally appropriate and community-centered.
 - **Guidance for Personal Electronic Devices Policy** (*EO-aligned and updated Aug 2025*)
 - **FAQ Document** (*updated regularly*)
 - **ODE Virtual Community of Practice** (flyer with registration links)
- **Questions and/or Technical Assistance:** ODE.mobiledevices@ode.oregon.gov



Thank you!