



Henry County R-I School District

Imagine, Inspire, Innovate...Road to Greyhound Greatness

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Subject: Implementation of Missouri's New Law Restricting Student Cell Phone Use in Schools

Dear Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Members,

The State of Missouri has recently passed legislation that restricts the displaying of cell phones and other personal electronic devices by students during school hours (RSMo 162.207). This law, which is now in effect per the Governor's signature on July 9th, 2025, aims to reduce distractions in the classroom, support student learning, and promote a more focused and respectful school environment.

Key Provisions of the Law:

- Students are prohibited from displaying cell phones during instructional time, including during class periods, assemblies, meal periods, passing periods, and other academic settings.
- Exceptions may be made for medical needs or other approved accommodations under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan, or in cases of emergency.
- Teachers and school staff are authorized to confiscate phones that are used in violation of this policy. Confiscated devices may be returned at the end of the day or require parental pickup, depending on the situation.

Why This Law Matters:

Numerous studies and classroom experiences have shown that excessive or inappropriate phone use during the school day can hinder learning, contribute to behavioral issues, and affect student mental health. By limiting these distractions, we aim to foster a more productive and positive learning environment for all students.

What You Can Expect:

Over the coming weeks, our schools will update their individual handbooks and disciplinary procedures to reflect this new policy. We will also provide guidance to students and staff on how this law will be implemented consistently and fairly. We ask for your cooperation and support in reinforcing the importance of keeping phones put away during instructional time.

We recognize that technology plays a central role in all our lives, and we are committed to helping students learn responsible use of devices in ways that support—not disrupt—their education.

If you have questions about how this new law will be implemented in your child's school, please don't hesitate to reach out to your school principal or contact my office directly.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, teachers, and schools.