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**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Chairperson Estes  
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 6, 2026

Subject: HB 2421 – Prohibiting personal electronic communication devices in schools.

House Bill No. 2421 (HB 2421) would enact new law prohibiting the use of personal electronic communication devices by students while at school. The bill also prohibits school employees from using social media platforms to communicate with students for official school purposes. The provisions of HB 2421 would not apply to virtual schools.

Section 1 of HB 2421 prohibits the use of personal electronic communication devices by students during normal school hours. This includes classroom time, passing periods, and lunch periods. The bill defines “personal electronic communication device as any wireless electronic communication device that provides for voice, text, or video communication, including cell phones, tablets, computers, watches, wireless headphones or earbuds, personal digital assistants, and any other text messaging device. Devices that are owned or leased by the school and issued to students are exempted.

There are exceptions to the general prohibition when the use of a device is required for implementation of an IEP or 504 Plan or when approved by a doctor or mid-level practitioner as a medical necessity to support the health or well-being of the student. In either case, the use of a device must be an intervention of last resort with no other reasonable alternative option available for the student.

Section 1 requires the board of education of each school district and the governing body of each accredited nonpublic school to adopt policies and procedures to implement the provisions of the section. The governing bodies may also adopt policies and procedures to

prohibit the use of such devices during school-sponsored activities or events that occur outside of normal school hours.

Section 2 of HB 2421 prohibits school employees from communicating with students through a social media platform for official school purposes. Prohibited communications are those that are public, one-way broadcasts or posts concerning school functions, activities, or events. The governing body may approve a social media platform for such communications.

Section 3 of HB 2421 requires that each governing body certify by September 1, 2026, that it has adopted the necessary policies and procedures to implement and enforce Sections 1 and 2. Each governing body is also required to submit a report to the State Board of Education by that date on the average amount of time students in grades 1 through 4 spend on an electronic device with a screen during a typical school day. The State Board of Education is directed to publish each such report on the Department of Education's website.

If enacted, HB 2421 would become effective on July 1, 2026.