

January 16, 2026

The Honorable Susan Estes, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 218-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Estes:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2421 by Representative Brantley, et al.

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2421 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2421 would prohibit students that are attending public elementary and secondary schools, as well as accredited nonpublic schools, from using personal electronic communication devices during instructional time. However, the bill would outline exceptions to this policy if the device is required for a student's individualized education program or "504 plan." A "504 plan" is a legal document that ensures students with disabilities get equal access to education by providing accommodation in the classroom.

The bill would require that all personal electronic communication devices be turned off and securely stored away from the student's possession in an inaccessible location during instructional time. The bill would authorize a student to contact a parent or guardian through the use of a school telephone or other device that is designated by the school. The local board of education or governing body of an accredited nonpublic school may adopt policies that limit or prohibit use of personal electronic communication devices by students during school-sponsored activities or events that occur outside of instructional time.

The bill would prohibit school district employees from privately or directly communicating with any student with social media for official school purposes. However, the bill would allow a school district or governing authority to approve a social media platform for official school purposes, except for communicating with students.

On or before September 1, 2026, each local board of education and governing authority of an accredited nonpublic school would be required to submit to the State Board of Education a certification that the organization has adopted policies and procedures to comply with the bill.

The Department of Education indicates the enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on state aid to school district or on the agency's administrative costs. However, because the bill does require school districts to ensure students do not have personal devices accessible during instructional time, school districts will have to evaluate a system to restrict access to personal communication devices. The Department states it cannot estimate the cost for school districts to implement the provisions of HB 2421.

The Division of the Budget notes that some companies sell fabric pouches that need to be unlocked with a special device at the end of a school day, with a cost of approximately \$30 per student for the pouch, including training and support. Using the 446,000 weighted FTE student enrollment estimate from the Fall 2025 Education Consensus, a potential statewide cost for using a system like fabric pouches could cost \$13.4 million (\$30 cost per pouch X 446,000 students = \$13,380,000). However, the bill does not require a specific model or device for school districts to comply with so a district's cost could vary. This example is for illustrative purposes only. School district costs for implementation would vary depending on the system a school district would choose. Because the bill does not appropriate additional state aid, school districts would fund this additional cost with its existing general fund budget in FY 2027.

Sincerely,



Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Gabrielle Hull, Department of Education
Angie Stallbaumer, Kansas Association of School Boards