



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Cocke County Board of Education is writing to inform you of an important update regarding the use of cellular devices in our schools, effective for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.

New State Law and Board Policy on Cellular Devices

The **Tennessee General Assembly** recently passed **Public Chapter 0103**, which was enacted on April 11, 2025, and becomes effective July 1, 2025. This new law prohibits the use of cellular devices during instructional time in all public schools across the state. This underscores a commitment to fostering an optimal learning environment free from distractions.

In alignment with this state mandate and to further support a focused educational setting, the Cocke County Board of Education has updated its policy. **Policy 6.312, "Use of Personal Communication Devices,"** states that the personal communication device **must be in the off mode and placed in a backpack, pocketbook, or stored out of sight** until the end of the school day. This includes instructional time, lunch periods, and transition times between classes.

We understand that cellular devices have become an integral part of daily life, and we want to assure you that student safety and communication in emergencies remain a top priority. In the event of an emergency, students will have access to school phones, and staff will assist in facilitating necessary communication.