



# Governor Ned Lamont

## Fact Sheet: 2026 Legislative Proposal

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### HOUSE BILL 5035

#### *AN ACT REQUIRING DISTRICTS TO BAN CELL PHONES IN THE CLASSROOM*

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#### **The Current Situation**

In August 2024, the State Board of Education and State Department of Education (CSDE) released guidance recommending that school board policies restrict cell phone use during the day to ensure student engagement in learning, support emotional well-being, and strengthen interpersonal skills, peer interaction, and social communication.

Districts created their own plans, with 65% of them implementing a bell-to-bell ban on personal devices and found positive results like improved academic performance, enhanced classroom engagement, positive school climate, and reduced behavioral issues.

#### **Governor Lamont's Solution**

Establish a statewide bell-to-bell cellphone ban for k-12 students, while maintaining district-led control. Districts will work collaboratively with local boards of education, parents, and students on what implementation and storage of student devices will look like.

Ensure direct-to-school contact information is provided to parents and guardians, so they have access to their kids throughout the school day. If a student uses their device per their IEP or individualized healthcare plan this law will not interfere.

