

Dear USD 444 Families:

We want to make families aware of upcoming changes regarding students' personal electronic devices in schools beginning in August 2026.

During the 2026 legislative session, the Kansas Legislature passed legislation requiring Kansas school districts to adopt policies and procedures prohibiting student use of personal electronic communication devices during the school day. Governor Laura Kelly signed the legislation into law in March 2026.

As a result, USD 444 is currently developing district procedures and expectations to align with the new state requirements. While final procedures are still being determined, families should anticipate that students will not have access to personal devices during the school day. This includes items such as:

- Cell phones
- Smart watches
- Earbuds/headphones connected to personal devices
- Other personal communication devices

The state legislation requires school districts to create procedures related to device storage, enforcement, disciplinary actions, and allowable exceptions for medical needs, IEPs, and 504 plans.

We understand this will be a significant adjustment for many students and families. Our goal in communicating now is to provide advance notice, so families have time to prepare before the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

Additional details regarding district procedures, expectations, and communication processes will be shared as plans are finalized over the coming months.

Thank you for your partnership and support as we work to implement these state-mandated changes.

Sincerely,

Brent Garrison
Superintendent of Schools