



Input on HB 1481

Monitoring of the cell phone ban

May 11, 2026

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** offers the following input with regard to implementation and monitoring of HB 1481 by Rep. Fairly:

We want to thank Rep. Fairly for taking on such a substantial bill in her first session and successfully shepherding it through to becoming law. We appreciate how truly collaborative she and her office were throughout the process.

The response to this legislation from ATPE members has been overwhelmingly positive. In a recent educator/member survey, it was clear respondents felt this policy was working. Seventy-six percent of the respondents stated the bill has improved their classroom discipline. Three out of four stated that student engagement has increased as a result of the ban and that they are seeing overall increased student learning.

Looking to the future, research and direct feedback from our members has lead ATPE to support expanding this legislation to include limiting screen time and the expensive push to secure and maintain 1:1 technology in favor of a return to traditional books, pencil, and paper, particularly in the lower grades. A growing body of research indicates that increased screen exposure in childhood is associated with poorer cognitive, academic, and psychosocial outcomes. Young students are still developing basic skills such as reading, writing, and social interaction, and too much screen time may interfere with this growth. Research suggests that heavy device usage can reduce students' attention spans, limit face-to-face communication, and make it harder for children to develop strong relationships with their peers and teachers. In addition, not all digital content is high quality or age appropriate, which can weaken learning outcomes if not closely monitored.

ATPE looks forward to working with Rep. Fairly and this committee to create a more ideal learning environment for our youngest students.

For additional information, contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or government@atpe.org.