



# HOUSE BILL 87: Cell Phone-Free Education.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Judiciary 3. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 18, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. N. Jackson, Biggs, Schietzelt, Eddins	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Michael Johnston*
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 87 would require governing bodies of public school units to adopt a policy governing the use of cell phones by students during instructional time. The bill would exempt remote charter academies, remote academies, and virtual charter schools participating in the virtual charter school pilot program.*

**CURRENT LAW:** There is no Statewide statute regarding the use of cell phones by students in public school units.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 87 would require the governing bodies of public school units to adopt a cell phone free education policy which would eliminate or severely restrict student access to cell phones during instructional time. Parents would have to be notified at the beginning of each school year of the cell phone free education policy that was adopted by the governing board.

The bill would exempt remote charter academies, remote academies, and virtual charter schools participating in the virtual charter school pilot program from the requirements of the new statute.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would become effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

**BACKGROUND:** According to data from the North Carolina School Boards Association, approximately 77 local boards of education have adopted a policy on cell phone use by students in schools.

*\*Drupti Chauhan, Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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