

Missouri awaiting decision to become fourth state to ban cell phone usage in schools

A bill requiring public and charter schools in Missouri to create policies banning cell phone use throughout the school day recently passed in the Missouri House. The legislation still needs Governor Mike Kehoe’s signature. Ten other states prohibit students from using their phones in classrooms, and another three states limit cell phone use, according to Ballotpedia. The bans stem from concerns that cell phones serve as distractions to active learning. The definition of “limited use” varies from state to state, but can include cell phone use to be limited to non-instructional times, such as lunch or class transitions, or for “educational purposes” like research, taking notes, or creating presentations, but only when directed by a teacher.

- Statewide ban
- Limited cell phone usage in classrooms
- Policy required but not established

