

**To: Members of the State Board of
Education & Early Development**

October 09, 2024

From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 12

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to consider a resolution related to cell phone restrictions in Alaska schools, and the drafting of model policy to limit cell phone usage during school hours for local school boards to consider and adopt.

◆ BACKGROUND

- A resolution asking the State School Board to charge the Department of Education and Early Development with the task of drafting a model policy to adopt and enforce the restriction of student cell phone usage during school hours, with consideration to:
 - Exceptions for medical conditions or other specific needs will be accommodated upon formal request.
 - Schools communicating clearly with parents and guardians about alternative methods to contact their children during school hours for emergencies or urgent situations.
- There is currently no statewide policy on cellphone usage in schools.
- A copy of the proposed resolution follows this cover memo.
- Lorri Van Diest, Second Vice Chair, State School Board, will be present to brief the board.

◆ OPTIONS

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 15.