

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

**October 09, 2024**

**From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 15**

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**◆ 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**

- Inform the public that the Board will consider the proposed resolution at a future meeting.
- Proceed with discussion of the proposed resolution and the public comment received.
- After discussion, adopt the proposed resolution.
- After discussion, inform the public that the Board will consider the proposed resolution at a future meeting.
- Seek more information.

**◆ ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

No recommendation

**◆ SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve resolution of 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.