

RESOLUTION REGARDING CELLULAR TELEPHONE USAGE IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education (ALSBOE) recognizes that national studies show that using cellular telephones or other electronic communication devices in classrooms can disrupt and distract from the learning environment, negatively impact test scores, and affect long-term learning retention; and

WHEREAS, § 16-1-27, Ala. Code 1975, "Use of Electronic Communication Devices on School Property," permits local boards of education to regulate the use of electronic communication devices on school property; and

WHEREAS, the ALSBOE believes it is in the best interest of students, administrators, teachers, and employees to minimize distractions and disruptions during instructional time, which is so important to increase academic proficiency:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education strongly encourages each local board of education to adopt a policy limiting the use of cellular telephones and or other electronic communication devices while on school property that is consistent with § 16-1-27, Ala. Code 1975, "Use of Electronic Communication Devices on School Property"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the local boards of education are strongly encouraged to provide training and support to teachers and staff to ensure they are aware of the policy, understand its importance, and acknowledge the expectation that they will comply with its terms and conditions.

Done this 8th day of February 2024