

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

January 22, 2025

From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 3

◆ ISSUE

The board instructed the department to draft model policy on cell phone restrictions in Alaska schools, focusing on limiting or restricting usage during school hours for local school boards to review and adopt. This update outlines the progress made on this initiative.

◆ 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.
- Karen Morrison, Deputy Commissioner, will present an update on the progress to the board.

◆ OPTIONS

This is an information update. No action is required.