

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                   1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4                   HOUSE BILL 1277

By: Caldwell (Chad) of the  
House

5                   and

6                   **Seifried** of the Senate

7                   AS INTRODUCED

8                   [ schools - State Board of Education - grants to

9                   incentivize phone-free spaces - application process

10                  - codification -

11                  **emergency ]**

12                  BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13                  SECTION 1.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified

14                  in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-201 of Title 70, unless there  
15                  is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16                  A.     Subject to the availability of funds, Seven Million Five  
17                  Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,500,000.00) shall be allocated by the  
18                  State Board of Education to provide grants to public middle schools,

1 junior high schools, and high schools to incentivize phone-free  
2 spaces for student learning.

3       B. 1. A public school district seeking a grant to establish a  
4 phone-free space in a middle school, junior high school, or high  
5 school site shall apply to the State Board of Education in the  
6 manner and on a form prescribed by the Board. The Board shall  
7 prioritize school districts that submit an application by July 1,  
8 2025. Any applications received after July 1, 2025, shall be  
9 considered on a first come, first served basis.

10      2. After reviewing the applications submitted, the Board shall  
11 attempt to select recipients equally from each of the following  
12 criteria:

- 13           a. middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools,  
14                  that each have an average daily membership (ADM) of  
15                  fewer than five hundred (500) students,
- 16           b. middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools,  
17                  that each have an ADM of five hundred (500) or more  
18                  students but fewer than one thousand five hundred  
19                  (1,500) students, and
- 20           c. middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools,  
21                  that each have an ADM of one thousand five hundred  
22                  (1,500) or more students.

23      3. When selecting grant recipients pursuant to this subsection,  
24 the Board shall attempt to select a variety of schools which are

1 broadly representative of schools in the state in terms of  
2 geographic locations and student populations.

3       C. The grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be used to  
4 purchase devices or equipment in which students enrolled in a grant-  
5 recipient school site can store their cell phones during the school  
6 day. In conjunction with the Office of Management and Enterprise  
7 Services, the State Board of Education may negotiate and contract  
8 with a vendor to offer a state rate price for devices or equipment  
9 to grant recipient school sites.

10      SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
11 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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15 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated  
03/04/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.