



South Dakota

OVERALL SCORE:

50

CURRENT LAW: **SB198** failed in the House



STRENGTHS:

South Dakota legislators who introduced bills to advance student outcomes should be commended.

OPPORTUNITIES:

South Dakota legislators should prioritize reintroducing a bell-to-bell bill, stipulating inaccessible storage, creating a uniform policy across the state that benefits every student.

CRITERIA	PTS	STATE PROVISION
Covered Time Period & Storage Requirements	50	-----
Devices Included	--	-----
Necessary Legal & Medical Exceptions	--	-----
Prioritizes Safety & Education Standards	--	-----
Enforcement Provision	--	-----
Data Collection	--	-----
OVERALL SCORE:		50

A	B	C	D	F	0	Incomplete
Bell-to-Bell, Inaccessible Storage	Bell-to-Bell, Accessible Storage	Class Instructional Time Only	Policy Required, No Mandated Elements	Bill Failed	No Bill Introduced	Bill Pending
90 – 99 PTS	80 – 89 PTS	70 – 79 PTS	60 – 69 PTS	50 PTS	0 PTS	---

Phone-Free Schools State Report Card

Methodology Overview

The **Phone-Free Schools Report Card** assesses the strength of statewide policies regarding student access to personal electronic devices in schools. Grades are based on how closely the law or executive order aligns with the [2025 Phone-Free Schools Model Bill](#).

Policies with **bell-to-bell restrictions** and **inaccessible storage** were awarded the most points, as these provisions can have the greatest impact on student outcomes and teacher satisfaction. Additional Model Bill provisions further support the likelihood of success.

States with failed 2025 bills received a flat score of 50 points (F). States where no bill or executive order was introduced received a "0." States with a two-year (biennium) legislative session where bills were introduced in 2025, but were still pending as of publication, received an "Incomplete." Pending ("Incomplete") and failed bills were not reviewed against the Model Bill.

Grade Key

A	(90 – 99) Bell-to-Bell, Inaccessible Storage
B	(80 – 89) Bell-to-Bell, Accessible Storage
C	(70 – 79) Class Instructional Time Only
D	(60 – 69) Policy Required, No Mandated Elements
F	(50) Bill Failed
0	(0) No Bill Introduced
	(Incomplete) Bill Pending

Criteria Descriptions

Covered Time Period & Storage Requirements (base grade)

Bell-to-bell with inaccessible storage	90 PTS
Bell-to-bell with accessible storage	80 PTS
Class instructional time only	70 PTS
Policy required, no mandated elements	60 PTS

Devices Included

Bell-to-bell with inaccessible storage	2 PTS
Includes some personal electronic devices	1 PTS
Includes only smartphones or does not define scope	0 PTS

Necessary Legal & Medical Exceptions

Includes exceptions for IEP, 504, and medical needs	2 PTS
Includes exceptions for either IEP, 504, or medical needs	1 PTS
Does not include any necessary legal and medical exceptions	0 PTS

Prioritizes Safety & Education Standards

Does not weaken safety or education standards	4 PTS
Weakens either safety or education standards	2 PTS
Weakens both safety and education standards	0 PTS

Enforcement Provision

Includes student enforcement provision	0.5 PTS
Does not include student enforcement provision	0 PTS

Data Collection

Includes annual data collection	0.5 PTS
Does not include annual data collection	0 PTS



Visit PhoneFreeSchoolsReport.org for more information.