

THE REGULATION OF MOBILE DEVICES IN SCHOOLS BILL, 2015

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(These notes form no part of the Bill but are intended only to indicate its general purport)

The Bill seeks to regulate the use of mobile devices in primary and secondary schools

Clause 1 would provide for the short title of the Act for which this is the Bill.

Clause 2 would provide for the definition of certain terms.

Clause 3 would prohibit the use of mobile devices by students attending primary schools while at school.

Clause 4 would prohibit the use of mobile devices by students attending secondary schools during class time.

Clause 5 would impose a duty on the Principal of a primary or secondary school to inform the parent or guardian where a student has allegedly contravened the Act. The Principal may also impose disciplinary penalties and report any contraventions to the Supervisor of Schools and the Minister.

Clause 6 would empower the Minister to make Regulations to give effect to the provisions of the Act.

A BILL

An Act to provide for the regulation of the use of mobile devices in schools and for related matters

Enactment	ENACTED by the 13 th National Youth Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as follows:
Short title	1. This Act may be cited as the Regulation of Mobile Devices in Schools Act, 2015.
Interpretation	2. In this Act- “interactive communications function” includes- (a) sending or receiving oral or written messages; (b) sending or receiving facsimile; (c) sending or receiving still or moving images; and (d) providing access to the internet; “Minister” means the Minister with responsibility for education and “Ministry” shall be construed accordingly; and “mobile device” means a mobile telephone or any other device which performs an interactive communications function by transmitting and receiving data, but does not include a personal laptop computer provided by the Government; “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made under section 6; and “Principal” includes Vice-Principal or any person acting in the Office of Principal;
Prohibition of use of mobile devices in primary schools	3. No student attending a primary school shall use a mobile device while he is at school.
Prohibition of use of mobile devices in secondary schools	4. No student attending a secondary school shall use a mobile device while classes are in session.
Penalty and report of breach	5. (1) Where a person alleges that a student has acted in breach of section 3 or 4, the Principal of the school shall inform the parent or guardian of the student and inquire into the matter.

(2) Where a Principal of a school is satisfied that a student has acted in breach of section 3 or 4, the Principal may suspend from attendance any student whose attendance at school is likely for any serious cause to have detrimental effect upon the other students, so, however, that no such suspension shall be for a period exceeding one week and the Principal shall notify the Supervisor of Schools.

(3) Where any student is suspended from attendance under subsection (2) the Supervisor of Schools may notify the Minister of the suspension and the reasons therefor and the Minister may, after receipt of the notification –

- (a) order the extension of the term of suspension in order to enable proper inquiries to be made;
- (b) after due investigation, order the reinstatement of the student on a date to be fixed by him;
- (c) order the removal of the student to another school;
- (d) order the expulsion of the student.

(4) Any order made by the Minister under subsection (3) shall be final.

Regulations

6. The Minister may make Regulations for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

Passed in the House of Representatives this day of , 2015.

Clerk of the House

I confirm the above.

Speaker