

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING

on

B26-73 “Heads Up! Distraction-Free Learning Amendment Act of 2025”

on

Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

**Room 412 (Track B)
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
DC Council Website (www.dccouncil.gov)**

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announces a public hearing before the Committee of the Whole on Bill 26-73 “Heads Up! Distraction Free Learning Amendment Act of 2025.” The public hearing will be held at **2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025.**

Bill 26-73 directs local education agencies to adopt and implement a policy that prohibits students from using personal wireless communication devices during the school day. This includes cell phones, gaming devices, and smart watches. Bill 26-73 aims to reduce distractions for students in the classroom and enhance their learning experience. The non-academic use of internet-connected devices like cell phones during the school day interrupts concentration and has been linked to decreases in learning. The use of social media on cell phones and other wireless devices has been linked to detrimental impacts on mental health and the escalation of conflicts in schools, also negatively affecting academic performance. Bill 26-73 provides, with appropriate permissions, exceptions for students to use wireless communication devices for educational purposes during instructional time, in the event of an emergency, or to manage a student’s health care. Bill 26-73 also allows for use of a device if it is included in the student’s Individualized Education Plan or to accommodate a disability. Under the bill, students would be provided with storage for wireless communication devices during the school day. Bill 26-73 also requires the Office of the State Superintendent for Education to develop a model Wireless Communication Device policy and to monitor the implementation and compliance with the legislation.

Those who wish to testify must register using the Council’s Hearing Management System at <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings> by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025. Testimony is limited to three minutes.** Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the proceeding by emailing cow@dccouncil.gov. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, although alternatives may be offered. Requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled. Witnesses will receive instructions on how to participate by Zoom prior to the hearing. If you have additional questions, please get in touch with Hannah Kozik, Legislative Policy Advisor, at (202) 724-8137 or hkozik@dccouncil.gov.

Public witnesses will participate in-person or virtually via the Internet on the Zoom Video Conference platform. Those who wish to submit testimony for the record may do so by using the Council’s Hearing Management System at <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings> or by leaving a voicemail at (202) 430-6948 (up to 3 minutes which will be transcribed). Testimony will be publicly accessible upon Committee review. **The record will close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.**