

CASIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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August 28, 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year! As the new school year begins, you should be aware that the Texas Legislature recently enacted a new law regarding the use of wireless communication devices in school zones.¹ This new law prohibits all motor vehicle operators from using any wireless communications devices within an active school zone, with limited exceptions. The statute becomes effective September 1, 2009.

You and your student should be aware of the following important provisions of this statute:

- It is considered a violation of state law to use any wireless communication device within an active school crossing zone, including cell phones, PDAs, computers, texting devices, pagers, and gaming systems.
- The law does not prohibit use if a hands-free device is used, such as a blue-tooth headset, earpiece, or speakerphone.
- Communications made to emergency response, hospital, fire or police department, health clinic, physician's office, or for first aid treatment are also allowed.
- Use of wireless communication devices is not prohibited while vehicles remain stopped.
- Anyone caught driving through a school zone on a cell phone where there is clear signage banning it could face up to a \$200 fine.

If you allow your student to carry a wireless communications device to school, you should discuss with your student the rules that apply to his or her use of the device while operating a motor vehicle, and the consequences that may apply for failure to comply with these rules.

Please help us maintain the safety of our campus by making sure that you and your student understand the new requirements.

Sincerely,

Patty Martin, Principal

¹ Transportation Code § 545.425