QUEBEC POLITICS

National Assembly committee recommends Quebec ban cellphones in schools

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National Assembly committee recommends Quebec ban cellphones in schools | Montreal Gazette



A National Assembly committee has recommended schools ban the use of cellphones in all areas, including outdoors. monkeybusinessimages Getty Images/iStockphoto

Mobile phones could be completely banned from primary and secondary schools starting next school year.

That's the recommendation of the Select Committee on the Impacts of Screens and Social Media on Young People's Health and Development, outlined in its interim report submitted Tuesday.

The committee recommends that the Quebec government prohibit the use of cellphones beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, for the entire school day and throughout the school premises, including outdoor areas. Headphones and other mobile devices, particularly those used for video games, would also be covered by the ban.

The report says that certain exceptions may apply, particularly when a student's health condition justifies the use of a mobile device, or for students with a disability or learning or adaptation difficulties. Use would also be permitted for educational purposes.

Since the beginning of 2024, cellphones have already been banned inside Quebec classrooms.

The commission recommends that provisions related to the cellphone ban be included in the frameworks established under the Education Act and the Act Respecting Private Education.

Committee members began their work in September 2024 with an initial round of special consultations and public hearings.

In total, nearly 70 specialists and organizations were heard over two consultation phases, and 500 primary and secondary school students were consulted for their opinions.

The commission's final report, including all recommendations, is expected by

May 30, 2025.