

104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****SB2427**

Introduced 2/7/2025, by Sen. Cristina Castro

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.88 new
105 ILCS 5/27A-5-3 new
105 ILCS 5/34-18.88 new

Amends the School Code. Provides that, on or before the 2026-2027 school year, each school board shall adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that: (1) prohibits a student from using a wireless communication device during instructional time, except as otherwise provided; and (2) includes guidance for secure and accessible storage of wireless devices during instructional time. Provides that the policy may not prohibit a student from using a wireless communication device during instructional time: (1) when a teacher or instructor has authorized the student to use a wireless communication device for educational purposes; (2) in an emergency or in response to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual; (3) when a licensed physician determines that the possession or use of a wireless communication device is necessary for the health or well-being of the student; or (4) to fulfill an Individualized Education Plan or a Section 504 plan developed under Section 504; or (5) when the wireless communication device is necessary for students who are English learners to access learning materials. Prohibits a district from enforcing the policy through fees, fines, the deployment of a School Resource Officer, or local law enforcement officer. Requires each school board to review the effectiveness of its wireless communication device policy at least every 3 years.

LRB104 12240 LNS 22347 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Sections
5 10-20.88, 27A-5-3, and 34-18.88 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.88 new)

7 Sec. 10-20.88. Wireless communication device policy.

8 (a) As used in this Section, "wireless communication
9 device" means any portable wireless device that has the
10 capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data
11 communication between 2 or more parties, including, but not
12 limited to:

13 (1) cellular telephones;

14 (2) tablet computers;

15 (3) laptop computers;

16 (4) gaming devices; and

17 (5) wearable devices, including smart watches and
18 smart glasses.

19 (b) On or before the 2026-2027 school year, each school
20 board shall adopt and implement a wireless communication
21 device policy that:

22 (1) prohibits a student from using a wireless
23 communication device during instructional time, except as

1 otherwise provided in subsection (c); and

2 (2) includes guidance for secure and accessible
3 storage of wireless devices during instructional time.

4 (c) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection
5 (b) may not prohibit a student from using a wireless
6 communication device during instructional time under the
7 following circumstances:

8 (1) when a teacher or instructor has authorized the
9 student to use a wireless communication device for
10 educational purposes;

11 (2) in an emergency or in response to an imminent
12 threat to the health or safety of an individual;

13 (3) when a licensed physician determines that the
14 possession or use of a wireless communication device is
15 necessary for the health or well-being of the student; or

16 (4) to fulfill an Individualized Education Plan or a
17 plan developed under Section 504 of the Federal
18 Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

19 (5) when the wireless communication device is
20 necessary for students who are English learners to access
21 learning materials.

22 (d) No district shall enforce this policy through fees,
23 finances, the deployment of a School Resource Officer, or local
24 law enforcement officer.

25 (e) Each school board shall review the effectiveness of
26 its wireless communication device policy at least every 3

1 years.

2 (105 ILCS 5/27A-5-3 new)

3 Sec. 27A-5-3. Wireless communication device policy.

4 (a) As used in this Section, "wireless communication
5 device" means any portable wireless device that has the
6 capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data
7 communication between 2 or more parties, including, but not
8 limited to:

9 (1) cellular telephones;

10 (2) tablet computers;

11 (3) laptop computers;

12 (4) gaming devices; and

13 (5) wearable devices, including smart watches and
14 smart glasses.

15 (b) On or before the 2026-2027 school year, each school
16 board shall adopt and implement a wireless communication
17 device policy that:

18 (1) prohibits a student from using a wireless
19 communication device during instructional time, except as
20 otherwise provided in subsection (c); and

21 (2) includes guidance for secure and accessible
22 storage of wireless devices during instructional time.

23 (c) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection
24 (b) may not prohibit a student from using a wireless
25 communication device during instructional time under the

1 following circumstances:

2 (1) when a teacher or instructor has authorized the
3 student to use a wireless communication device for
4 educational purposes;

5 (2) in an emergency or in response to an imminent
6 threat to the health or safety of an individual;

7 (3) when a licensed physician determines that the
8 possession or use of a wireless communication device is
9 necessary for the health or well-being of the student; or

10 (4) to fulfill an Individualized Education Plan or a
11 plan developed under Section 504 of the Federal
12 Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

13 (5) when the wireless communication device is
14 necessary for students who are English learners to access
15 learning materials.

16 (d) No district shall enforce this policy through fees,
17 finances, the deployment of a School Resource Officer, or local
18 law enforcement officer.

19 (e) Each school board shall review the effectiveness of
20 its wireless communication device policy at least every 3
21 years.

22 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.88 new)

23 Sec. 34-18.88. Wireless communication device policy.

24 (a) As used in this Section, "wireless communication
25 device" means any portable wireless device that has the

1 capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data
2 communication between 2 or more parties, including, but not
3 limited to:

- 4 (1) cellular telephones;
- 5 (2) tablet computers;
- 6 (3) laptop computers;
- 7 (4) gaming devices; and
- 8 (5) wearable devices, including smart watches and
9 smart glasses.

10 (b) On or before the 2026-2027 school year, each board
11 shall adopt and implement a wireless communication device
12 policy that:

- 13 (1) prohibits a student from using a wireless
14 communication device during instructional time, except as
15 otherwise provided in subsection (c); and
- 16 (2) includes guidance for secure and accessible
17 storage of wireless devices during instructional time.

18 (c) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection
19 (b) may not prohibit a student from using a wireless
20 communication device during instructional time under the
21 following circumstances:

- 22 (1) when a teacher or instructor has authorized the
23 student to use a wireless communication device for
24 educational purposes;
- 25 (2) in an emergency or in response to an imminent
26 threat to the health or safety of an individual;

1 (3) when a licensed physician determines that the
2 possession or use of a wireless communication device is
3 necessary for the health or well-being of the student; or

4 (4) to fulfill an Individualized Education Plan or a
5 plan developed under Section 504 of the Federal
6 Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

7 (5) when the wireless communication device is
8 necessary for students who are English learners to access
9 learning materials.

10 (d) No district shall enforce this policy through fees,
11 finances, the deployment of a School Resource Officer, or local
12 law enforcement officer.

13 (e) Each board shall review the effectiveness of its
14 wireless communication device policy at least every 3 years.