

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 34-18.14a 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:

9 "Instructional time" means the time during a school day
10 students spend learning and participating in school
11 activities. "Instructional time" does not include recess,
12 passing time, or lunch time.

13 "Wireless communication device" means any portable
14 wireless device that has the capability to provide voice,
15 messaging, or other data communication between 2 or more
16 parties, including, but not limited to:

17 (1) cellular telephones;

18 (2) tablet computers;

19 (3) laptop computers;

20 (4) gaming devices; and

21 (5) wearable devices, including smart watches or smart
22 glasses.

23 "Wireless communication device" does not include any device

1 that a school district or teacher has directly issued to,
2 provided for, or required a student to possess and use for
3 educational purposes during instructional time.

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

7 (1) at a minimum, prohibits a student from using a
8 wireless communication device during instructional time,
9 except as otherwise provided in subsections (c) and (d);
10 and

11 (2) incorporates guidance for secure and accessible
12 storage of wireless devices during instructional time or
13 directs the district superintendent or his or her designee
14 to provide such guidance. However, this paragraph (2) does
15 not preclude a school district from prohibiting the use or
16 possession of wireless communication devices for students
17 not meeting one of the exceptions set forth in subsection
18 (c) or (d).

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

23 (1) if a licensed physician determines that the
24 possession or use of a wireless communication device is
25 necessary for the health or well-being of the student and
26 the student uses the wireless communication device as

1 prescribed by the licensed physician;

2 (2) to fulfill an individualized education program or
3 a plan developed under Section 504 of the federal
4 Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

5 (3) if the wireless communication device is necessary
6 for students who are English learners, as defined in
7 Section 14C-2 of this Code, to access learning materials.

8 (d) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection
9 (b) may allow for the following exceptions:

10 (1) if school personnel have authorized the student to
11 use a wireless communication device for educational
12 purposes; and

13 (2) in the event of an emergency as detailed in at
14 least one of the school district's emergency and crises
15 response plans, protocols, or procedures.

16 (e) No school district may enforce the wireless
17 communication device policy through fees, fines, or the
18 deployment of a school resource officer or local law
19 enforcement officer.

20 (f) Each school board shall review its wireless
21 communication device policy at least once every 3 years and
22 make any necessary and appropriate revisions to the policy.

23 (g) A school district shall publicly post the policy
24 adopted and implemented under subsection (b) on its website.
25 If the school district does not operate a website, then the
26 school district shall provide a copy of the policy adopted and

1 implemented under subsection (b) to the parents or guardians
2 of every student enrolled in the school district.

3 (105 ILCS 5/27A-5.3 new)

4 Sec. 27A-5.3. Wireless communication device policy.

5 (a) As used in this Section:

6 "Instructional time" means the time during a school day
7 students spend learning and participating in school
8 activities. "Instructional time" does not include recess,
9 passing time, or lunch time.

10 "Wireless communication device" means any portable
11 wireless device that has the capability to provide voice,
12 messaging, or other data communication between 2 or more
13 parties, including, but not limited to:

14 (1) cellular telephones;

15 (2) tablet computers;

16 (3) laptop computers;

17 (4) gaming devices; and

18 (5) wearable devices, including smart watches or smart
19 glasses.

20 "Wireless communication device" does not include any device
21 that a charter school or teacher has directly issued to,
22 provided for, or required a student to possess and use for
23 educational purposes during instructional time.

24 (b) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each charter
25 school shall adopt and implement a wireless communication

1 device policy that:

2 (1) at a minimum, prohibits a student from using a
3 wireless communication device during instructional time,
4 except as otherwise provided in subsections (c) and (d);
5 and

6 (2) incorporates guidance for secure and accessible
7 storage of wireless devices during instructional time.
8 However, this paragraph (2) does not preclude a charter
9 school from prohibiting the use or possession of wireless
10 communication devices for students not meeting one of the
11 exceptions set forth in subsection (c) or (d).

12 (c) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection
13 (b) may not prohibit a student from using a wireless
14 communication device during instructional time under the
15 following circumstances:

16 (1) if a licensed physician determines that the
17 possession or use of a wireless communication device is
18 necessary for the health or well-being of the student and
19 the student uses the wireless communication device as
20 prescribed by the licensed physician;

21 (2) to fulfill an individualized education program or
22 a plan developed under Section 504 of the federal
23 Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

24 (3) if the wireless communication device is necessary
25 for students who are English learners, as defined in
26 Section 14C-2 of this Code, to access learning materials.

1 (d) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection
2 (b) may allow for the following exceptions:

3 (1) if school personnel have authorized the student to
4 use a wireless communication device for educational
5 purposes; and

6 (2) in the event of an emergency as detailed in at
7 least one of the charter school's emergency and crises
8 response plans, protocols, or procedures.

9 (e) No charter school may enforce the wireless
10 communication device policy through fees, fines, or the
11 deployment of a school resource officer or local law
12 enforcement officer.

13 (f) A charter school shall review its wireless
14 communication device policy at least once every 3 years and
15 make any necessary and appropriate revisions to the policy.

16 (g) A charter school shall publicly post the policy
17 adopted and implemented under subsection (b) on its website.
18 If the charter school does not operate a website, then the
19 charter school shall provide a copy of the policy adopted and
20 implemented under subsection (b) to the parents or guardians
21 of every student enrolled in the charter school.

22 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.14a new)

23 Sec. 34-18.14a. Wireless communication device policy.

24 (a) As used in this Section:

25 "Instructional time" means the time during a school day

1 students spend learning and participating in school
2 activities. "Instructional time" does not include recess,
3 passing time, or lunch time.

4 "Wireless communication device" means any portable
5 wireless device that has the capability to provide voice,
6 messaging, or other data communication between 2 or more
7 parties, including, but not limited to:

8 (1) cellular telephones;

9 (2) tablet computers;

10 (3) laptop computers;

11 (4) gaming devices; and

12 (5) wearable devices, including smart watches or smart
13 glasses.

14 "Wireless communication device" does not include any device
15 that the school district or teacher has directly issued to,
16 provided for, or required a student to possess and use for
17 educational purposes during instructional time.

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

21 (1) at a minimum, prohibits a student from using a
22 wireless communication device during instructional time,
23 except as otherwise provided in subsections (c) and (d);
24 and

25 (2) incorporates guidance for secure and accessible
26 storage of wireless devices during instructional time or

1 directs the general superintendent of schools or his or
2 her designee to provide such guidance. However, this
3 paragraph (2) does not preclude the school district from
4 prohibiting the use or possession of wireless
5 communication devices for students not meeting one of the
6 exceptions set forth in subsection (c) or (d).

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

11 (1) if a licensed physician determines that the
12 possession or use of a wireless communication device is
13 necessary for the health or well-being of the student and
14 the student uses the wireless communication device as
15 prescribed by the licensed physician;

16 (2) to fulfill an individualized education program or
17 a plan developed under Section 504 of the federal
18 Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

19 (3) if the wireless communication device is necessary
20 for students who are English learners, as defined in
21 Section 14C-2 of this Code, to access learning materials.

22 (d) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection
23 (b) may allow for the following exceptions:

24 (1) if school personnel have authorized the student to
25 use a wireless communication device for educational
26 purposes; and

1 (2) in the event of an emergency as detailed in at
2 least one of the school district's emergency and crises
3 response plans, protocols, or procedures.

4 (e) The school district may not enforce the wireless
5 communication device policy through fees, fines, or the
6 deployment of a school resource officer or local law
7 enforcement officer.

8 (f) The board shall review its wireless communication
9 device policy at least once every 3 years and make any
10 necessary and appropriate revisions to the policy.

11 (g) The school district shall publicly post the policy
12 adopted and implemented under subsection (b) on its website.