



February 18, 2026

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 78

DIGEST OF SB 78 (Updated February 18, 2026 2:39 pm - DI 134)

Citations Affected: IC 10-21; IC 20-26; IC 34-30.

Synopsis: Wireless communication device policy. Amends definitions, requirements, restrictions, and exceptions regarding wireless communication device policies adopted and implemented by school corporations and charter schools. Requires the department of education to publish model policy language and implementation guidance. Provides that, with exceptions, a school corporation, a school maintained by a school corporation, and a charter school, including school personnel, are immune from civil liability for any actions taken in good faith to comply with the school's wireless communication device policy.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

**Raatz, Goode, Byrne, Rogers,
Randolph Lonnie M**

(HOUSE SPONSORS — TESHKA, MCGUIRE, COMMONS)

December 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

January 8, 2026, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

January 12, 2026, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed. Returned to second reading.

January 13, 2026, engrossed. Re-read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.

January 14, 2026, re-engrossed.

January 20, 2026, read third time, passed. Yeas 28, nays 19.

HOUSE ACTION

January 28, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.

February 12, 2026, amended, reported — Do Pass. Referred to Committee on Ways and Means pursuant to Rule 126.3.

February 18, 2026, amended, reported — Do Pass.

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February 18, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 78

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 10-21-1-2, AS AMENDED BY THE TECHNICAL
2 CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IS
3 AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:
4 Sec. 2. (a) The Indiana secured school fund is established to provide:
5 (1) matching grants to school corporations, charter schools, and
6 accredited nonpublic schools, where the matching grants may be
7 used to:
8 (A) employ a school resource officer, employ a law
9 enforcement officer, or enter into a contract or a memorandum
10 of understanding with a:
11 (i) local law enforcement agency;
12 (ii) private entity; or
13 (iii) nonprofit corporation;
14 to employ a school resource officer or a law enforcement
15 officer;
16 (B) conduct:
17 (i) a site vulnerability assessment of the buildings within a

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- 1 school corporation or the buildings that are operated by a
 2 charter school or accredited nonpublic school; or
 3 (ii) critical incident digital mapping of the buildings within
 4 a school corporation or the buildings that are operated by a
 5 charter school or accredited nonpublic school;
 6 (C) purchase equipment, hardware, materials, and technology
 7 to:
 8 (i) restrict access to school property and classrooms;
 9 (ii) assist with visitor management on school property;
 10 (iii) expedite notification of first responders;
 11 (iv) expedite access to school property for first responders;
 12 (v) provide school staff with information about the open or
 13 closed status of interior and exterior doors;
 14 (vi) detect fire, chemical, visual, or audible threats;
 15 (vii) enhance emergency communications inside the
 16 building; or
 17 (viii) assist with emergency medical response on school
 18 property;
 19 (D) implement a student and parent support services plan as
 20 described in IC 20-34-9;
 21 (E) purchase or provide training for a canine trained to detect
 22 drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to
 23 otherwise provide protection for students and school
 24 employees and the canine shall:
 25 (i) be primarily assigned to a school corporation, charter
 26 school, or accredited nonpublic school;
 27 (ii) be primarily assigned to a school resource officer or law
 28 enforcement officer described in clause (A) who has
 29 received appropriate training for handling a canine trained
 30 to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or
 31 firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and
 32 school employees, including training regarding handling a
 33 canine in a school setting; and
 34 (iii) receive continuous training as appropriate;
 35 (F) provide funding for school employees to receive training,
 36 including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging, related
 37 to:
 38 (i) site vulnerability assessments;
 39 (ii) mental health or behavioral health threat assessments;
 40 (iii) multi-disciplinary threat assessment teams; or
 41 (iv) emergency preparedness or response activities;
 42 (G) provide funding for school resource officers or law



- 1 enforcement officers described in clause (A) to receive
 2 training, including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging,
 3 related to handling a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal
 4 substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide
 5 protection for students and school employees;
 6 (H) purchase student safety management technology;
 7 (I) design and construct additions or renovations on school
 8 property if the primary purpose of the construction project is
 9 to enhance the physical security of the school building; **or**
 10 (J) implement a bullying prevention program; **or and**
 11 ~~(K) develop, implement, and carry out a Stop the Bleed~~
 12 ~~program required by IC 20-34-3-24, including for the purchase~~
 13 ~~of bleeding control kits; and~~
 14 (2) one (1) time grants to enable school corporations, charter
 15 schools, and accredited nonpublic schools with the sheriff for the
 16 county in which the school corporation, charter school, or
 17 accredited nonpublic school is located, to provide the initial set up
 18 costs for an active event warning system.
- 19 (b) A school corporation or charter school may use money received
 20 under a matching grant for a purpose listed in subsection (a) to provide
 21 a response to a threat in a manner that the school corporation or charter
 22 school sees fit, including firearms training or other self-defense
 23 training.
- 24 (c) The fund shall be administered by the department of homeland
 25 security.
- 26 (d) The fund consists of:
 27 (1) appropriations from the general assembly;
 28 (2) federal grants;
 29 (3) amounts deposited from any other public or private source;
 30 and
 31 (4) amounts deposited under IC 33-37-9-4.
- 32 (e) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from
 33 money in the fund.
- 34 (f) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not
 35 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same
 36 manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues
 37 from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.
- 38 (g) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert
 39 to the state general fund.
- 40 SECTION 2. IC 20-26-5-40.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.24-2024,
 41 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 42 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 40.7. (a) As used in this section, ~~"instructional~~



1 time" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-30-2-1. "school day" means
 2 the entirety of the time a student is present on school property for
 3 a student instructional day (as defined in IC 20-30-2-2).

4 (b) As used in this section, "school sanctioned wireless
 5 communication device" means a wireless communication device
 6 that:

- 7 (1) is owned by a student or a third party vendor;
- 8 (2) is approved by the school for instructional use;
- 9 (3) is required or permitted by the school for participation in
 10 classroom instruction;
- 11 (4) is subject to school managed network controls, filtering, or
 12 monitoring that restrict access to noninstructional content
 13 during the school day; and
- 14 (5) is not a cellular telephone, gaming device, or smartwatch
 15 described in subsection (c)(5).

16 ~~(b)~~ (c) As used in this section, "wireless communication device"
 17 means any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide
 18 voice, messaging, or other data communication between two (2) or
 19 more parties, including a:

- 20 (1) cellular telephone;
- 21 (2) tablet computer;
- 22 (3) laptop computer; ~~or~~
- 23 (4) gaming device; ~~or~~
- 24 (5) smartwatch that is connected to a cellular telephone, a cell
 25 tower, or the Internet.

26 The term does not include a device described in subsection (i).

27 ~~(c)~~ (d) Except as provided in subsection (e), each school
 28 corporation and charter school shall adopt and implement a wireless
 29 communication device policy that:

- 30 (1) except as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3); ~~subdivision~~
 31 (2), ~~and subsection (d)~~; prohibits a student from using a wireless
 32 communication device during ~~instructional time; the school day;~~
 33 (2) authorizes a teacher to allow a student to use a wireless
 34 communication device for educational purposes during
 35 instructional time; and
- 36 (3) permits a student to use a wireless communication device in
 37 the event of an emergency or to manage the student's health care.
- 38 (2) requires teacher directed use of a wireless communication
 39 device for educational purposes during the school day to
 40 occur only on school supplied or school sanctioned wireless
 41 communication devices; and
- 42 (3) mandates one (1) of the following policies:



- 1 **(A) A no device policy under which students are not**
 2 **permitted to bring wireless communication devices to**
 3 **school.**
- 4 **(B) A storage policy under which wireless communication**
 5 **devices may be brought to school, but must be stored away,**
 6 **powered off, and inaccessible to a student throughout the**
 7 **school day.**
- 8 ~~(d)~~ **(e)** The policy adopted and implemented under subsection ~~(e)~~
 9 **(d)** may not prohibit a student from using a wireless communication
 10 device during ~~instructional time the school day~~ if the use of the
 11 wireless communication device is: ~~included in the student's~~
- 12 **(1) included in the student's** individualized education program;
 13 **or**
- 14 **(2) included in the student's** plan developed under Section 504
 15 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794;
 16 **(3) necessary for the management of a documented medical**
 17 **condition pursuant to an order provided by a licensed health**
 18 **care provider;**
- 19 **(4) authorized by the superintendent, or the superintendent's**
 20 **designee; or**
- 21 **(5) necessary for language translation to ensure access for**
 22 **multi-lingual learners, prioritizing school-managed wireless**
 23 **communication devices or applications where available.**
- 24 ~~(e)~~ **(f)** Each school corporation and charter school shall publish on
 25 its website the wireless communication device policy established under
 26 subsection ~~(e)~~: **(d)**.
- 27 **(g)** The department shall publish model policy language and
 28 **implementation guidance consistent with this section, which may**
 29 **include guidance for how existing lockers and resources can be**
 30 **used to comply with this section.**
- 31 **(h)** A school corporation, a school maintained by a school
 32 corporation, a charter school, and personnel of a school
 33 corporation, a school maintained by a school corporation, or a
 34 charter school, are immune from civil liability for any actions
 35 taken in good faith to comply with this section. The civil immunity
 36 under this subsection does not apply to an act or omission that
 37 constitutes gross negligence or willful, wanton, or intentional
 38 misconduct.
- 39 **(i)** Notwithstanding subsections (a) through (g), a student may
 40 possess and use an unobtrusive audio recording device solely for
 41 the student's individual educational notetaking or personal
 42 learning assistance if the device:



1 (1) is designed principally to capture spoken word audio for
 2 the purpose described in this subsection, including through
 3 recording, transcription, summarization, or other personal
 4 assistant functionality;

5 (2) does not capture, store, or transmit images or video;

6 (3) is visible to the classroom teacher or other appropriate
 7 school personnel at all times while in use;

8 (4) is provided to the school for inspection upon request; and

9 (5) is used in a manner consistent with applicable state and
 10 federal law governing consent to audio recording.

11 (j) Except as provided in subsection (e), nothing in the
 12 exemption under subsection (i) shall be interpreted to limit a
 13 school's authority to adopt and enforce policies to control or
 14 restrict the possession or use of audio recording devices described
 15 in subsection (i), including policies that:

16 (1) restrict where and when such devices may be used while at
 17 school;

18 (2) prohibit the use of the devices during an assessment or
 19 other activity designated by the school;

20 (3) prohibit the real time transmission, broadcasting, or live
 21 streaming of audio recorded by the devices;

22 (4) require advance notification to either a classroom teacher
 23 or building administrator as may be applicable in the school's
 24 policy before use;

25 (5) require that recorded material be stored, retained, or
 26 deleted in a manner consistent with school policy; and

27 (6) require consent requirements consistent with applicable
 28 law for the recording of another student or school employee.

29 (k) A school corporation or charter school that adopts a policy
 30 under this section that permits the possession or use of an audio
 31 recording device under subsection (i) shall include in the policy a
 32 provision that a recording made under subsection (i) may not be
 33 used for a disciplinary, evaluative, or supervisory purpose against
 34 a:

35 (1) student; or

36 (2) school employee.

37 SECTION 3. IC 34-30-2.1-271.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 38 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 39 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 271.5. IC 20-26-5-40.7
 40 (Concerning school corporations, schools maintained by school
 41 corporations, charter schools, school personnel, and compliance
 42 with a school's wireless communication device policy).



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 78, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 2, line 21, after "must" insert **"be stored away and inaccessible to a student throughout the school day."**

Page 2, delete lines 22 through 26.

Page 2, line 36, delete "a physician's directive;" and insert **"an order provided by a health care provider who is licensed in Indiana;"**.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 78 as introduced.)

RAATZ, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 12, Nays 1.

 SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 78 be amended to read as follows:

Page 3, after line 2, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"(g) A school corporation, a school maintained by a school corporation, a charter school, and personnel of a school corporation, a school maintained by a school corporation, or a charter school, are immune from civil liability for any actions taken in good faith to comply with this section. The civil immunity under this subsection does not apply to an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence or willful, wanton, or intentional misconduct.

SECTION 2. IC 34-30-2.1-271.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 271.5. IC 20-26-5-40.7 (Concerning school corporations, schools maintained by school corporations, charter schools, school personnel, and compliance with a school's wireless communication device policy)."**

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(Reference is to SB 78 as printed January 9, 2026.)

JOHNSON T

SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 78 be amended to read as follows:

Page 2, line 33, after "by a" insert "**licensed**".

Page 2, line 34, delete "provider who is licensed in Indiana;" and insert "**provider;**".

(Reference is to SB 78 as printed January 9, 2026.)

ROGERS

SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 78 be amended to read as follows:

Page 2, line 3, reset in roman "subdivisions (2) and (3)".

Page 2, line 3, after "(3)" insert ",".

Page 2, line 4, delete "subdivision (2),".

Page 2, line 4, delete "or possessing".

Page 2, line 13, delete "day to" and insert "**day; and**".

Page 2, delete lines 14 through 15.

Page 2, between lines 23 and 24, begin a new line double block indented and insert:

"(C) A secure storage policy under which wireless communication devices may be brought to school, but must be stored in the student's locker or backpack throughout the school day and may, at the school's discretion, be used:

(i) for academic purposes in the classroom as directed by a teacher; or

(ii) during passing periods."

(Reference is to SB 78 as printed January 9, 2026.)

QADDOURA



SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Engrossed Senate Bill 78, which is eligible for third reading, be returned to second reading for purposes of amendment.

RAATZ

 SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 78 be amended to read as follows:

Page 2, line 3, strike "subdivisions (2) and (3)," and insert "**subdivision (2)**,".

Page 2, line 12, delete "day; and" and insert "**day to occur only on school supplied wireless communication devices; and**".

Page 2, delete lines 21 through 27.

(Reference is to SB 78 as reprinted January 13, 2026.)

RAATZ

 COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Education, to which was referred Senate Bill 78, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 10-21-1-2, AS AMENDED BY THE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) The Indiana secured school fund is established to provide:

(1) matching grants to school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools, where the matching grants may be used to:

(A) employ a school resource officer, employ a law enforcement officer, or enter into a contract or a memorandum of understanding with a:

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- (i) local law enforcement agency;
 - (ii) private entity; or
 - (iii) nonprofit corporation;
- to employ a school resource officer or a law enforcement officer;
- (B) conduct:
- (i) a site vulnerability assessment of the buildings within a school corporation or the buildings that are operated by a charter school or accredited nonpublic school; or
 - (ii) critical incident digital mapping of the buildings within a school corporation or the buildings that are operated by a charter school or accredited nonpublic school;
- (C) purchase equipment, hardware, materials, and technology to:
- (i) restrict access to school property and classrooms;
 - (ii) assist with visitor management on school property;
 - (iii) expedite notification of first responders;
 - (iv) expedite access to school property for first responders;
 - (v) provide school staff with information about the open or closed status of interior and exterior doors;
 - (vi) detect fire, chemical, visual, or audible threats;
 - (vii) enhance emergency communications inside the building; or
 - (viii) assist with emergency medical response on school property;
- (D) implement a student and parent support services plan as described in IC 20-34-9;
- (E) purchase or provide training for a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and school employees and the canine shall:
- (i) be primarily assigned to a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school;
 - (ii) be primarily assigned to a school resource officer or law enforcement officer described in clause (A) who has received appropriate training for handling a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and school employees, including training regarding handling a canine in a school setting; and
 - (iii) receive continuous training as appropriate;
- (F) provide funding for school employees to receive training,



including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging, related to:

- (i) site vulnerability assessments;
- (ii) mental health or behavioral health threat assessments;
- (iii) multi-disciplinary threat assessment teams; or
- (iv) emergency preparedness or response activities;

(G) provide funding for school resource officers or law enforcement officers described in clause (A) to receive training, including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging, related to handling a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and school employees;

(H) purchase student safety management technology;

(I) design and construct additions or renovations on school property if the primary purpose of the construction project is to enhance the physical security of the school building;

(J) implement a bullying prevention program; or

~~(K) develop, implement, and carry out a Stop the Bleed program required by IC 20-34-3-24, including for the purchase of bleeding control kits; and~~

(K) purchase a storage pouch for purposes described in IC 20-26-5-40.7(d)(3)(B); and

(2) one (1) time grants to enable school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools with the sheriff for the county in which the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school is located, to provide the initial set up costs for an active event warning system.

(b) A school corporation or charter school may use money received under a matching grant for a purpose listed in subsection (a) to provide a response to a threat in a manner that the school corporation or charter school sees fit, including firearms training or other self-defense training.

(c) The fund shall be administered by the department of homeland security.

(d) The fund consists of:

- (1) appropriations from the general assembly;
- (2) federal grants;
- (3) amounts deposited from any other public or private source; and
- (4) amounts deposited under IC 33-37-9-4.

(e) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

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(f) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

(g) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund.

SECTION 2. IC 10-21-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.150-2023, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) The board may award a matching grant to enable a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school (or a coalition of schools applying jointly) to:

(1) employ a school resource officer, employ a law enforcement officer, or enter into a contract or memorandum of understanding with a:

- (A) local law enforcement agency;
- (B) private entity; or
- (C) nonprofit corporation;

to employ a school resource officer or a law enforcement officer;

(2) conduct a site vulnerability assessment of the buildings within a school corporation or the buildings that are operated by a charter school or accredited nonpublic school;

(3) conduct critical incident digital mapping of the buildings within a school corporation or the buildings that are operated by a charter school or accredited nonpublic school;

(4) purchase equipment, hardware, materials, and technology to:

- (A) restrict access to school property and classrooms;
- (B) assist with visitor management on school property;
- (C) expedite notification of first responders;
- (D) expedite access to school property for first responders;
- (E) provide staff with information about open or closed status of interior and exterior doors;
- (F) detect fire, chemical, visual, or audible threats;
- (G) enhance emergency communications inside the school building; or
- (H) assist with emergency medical response on school property;

(5) implement a student and parent support services plan in the manner set forth in IC 20-34-9;

(6) purchase or provide training for a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and school employees and the canine shall:



- (A) be primarily assigned to a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school;
 - (B) be primarily assigned to a school resource officer or law enforcement officer described in subdivision (1)(A) who has received appropriate training for handling a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and school employees, including training regarding handling a canine in a school setting; and
 - (C) receive continuous training as appropriate;
- (7) provide funding for:
- (A) school employees to receive training, including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging, related to:
 - (i) site vulnerability assessments;
 - (ii) mental health or behavioral health threat assessments;
 - (iii) multi-disciplinary threat assessment teams; or
 - (iv) emergency preparedness or response activities; or
 - (B) school resource officers or law enforcement officers described in subdivision (1)(A) to receive training, including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging, related to handling a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and school employees;
- (8) design and construct additions or renovations on school property if the primary purpose of the construction project is to enhance the physical security of the school building;
- (9) provide one (1) time grants to enable school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools with the sheriff for the county in which the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school is located to provide the initial set up costs for an active event warning system;
- (10) implement a bullying prevention program; ~~or~~
- (11) purchase student safety management technology; ~~or~~
- (12) purchase a storage pouch for purposes described in IC 20-26-5-40.7(d)(3)(B);**

in accordance with section 2(a) of this chapter.

(b) A matching grant awarded to a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school (or a coalition of schools applying jointly) may not exceed the lesser of the following during a two (2) year period beginning on or after May 1, 2013:

- (1) The total cost of the program established by the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school (or the



coalition of schools applying jointly).

(2) Except as provided in subsection (d), the following amounts:

(A) Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) per year, in the case of a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school that:

(i) has an ADM of at least one (1) and less than one thousand one (1,001) students; and

(ii) is not applying jointly with any other school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school.

(B) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per year, in the case of a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school that:

(i) has an ADM of more than one thousand (1,000) and less than five thousand one (5,001) students; and

(ii) is not applying jointly with any other school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school.

(C) Seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) per year, in the case of a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school that:

(i) has an ADM of more than five thousand (5,000) and less than fifteen thousand one (15,001) students; and

(ii) is not applying jointly with any other school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school.

(D) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year, in the case of a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school that:

(i) has an ADM of more than fifteen thousand (15,000); and

(ii) is not applying jointly with any other school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school.

(E) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year, in the case of a coalition of schools applying jointly.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d), the match requirement for a grant under this chapter is based on the ADM for the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school (or coalition of schools applying jointly) that is the subject of the grant as follows:

(1) For a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school with an ADM of less than five hundred one (501) students, the grant match must be twenty-five percent (25%) of the grant amount described in subsection (b).

(2) For a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school with an ADM of more than five hundred (500) and less than one thousand one (1,001) students, the grant match



must be fifty percent (50%) of the grant amount described in subsection (b).

(3) For a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school with an ADM of more than one thousand (1,000) students or a coalition of schools applying jointly, the grant match must be one hundred percent (100%) of the grant amount described in subsection (b).

(d) A school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school may be eligible to receive a grant of up to:

(1) one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) if:

(A) the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school receives a grant match of one hundred percent (100%) of the requested grant amount; and

(B) the board approves the grant request; or

(2) for a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school described in subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2), a grant of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) if:

(A) the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school receives a grant match of fifty percent (50%) of the requested grant amount; and

(B) the board approves the grant request.

(e) A school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school may receive only one (1) matching grant under this section each year.

(f) The board may not award a grant to a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school under this section unless the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school is in a county that has a county school safety commission, as described in section 12 of this chapter."

Page 1, between lines 6 and 7, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"(b) As used in this section, "school sanctioned wireless communication device" means a wireless communication device that:

(1) is owned by a student or a third party vendor;

(2) is approved by the school for instructional use;

(3) is required or permitted by the school for participation in classroom instruction;

(4) is subject to school managed network controls, filtering, or monitoring that restrict access to noninstructional content during the school day; and

(5) is not a cellular telephone, gaming device, or smartwatch described in subsection (c)(5)."



Page 1, line 7, strike "(b)" and insert "(c)".

Page 1, between lines 16 and 17, begin a new line blocked left and insert:

"The term does not include a device described in subsection (i)."

Page 1, line 17, strike "(c)" and insert "(d)".

Page 1, line 17, delete "subsection (d)," and insert "**subsection (e),"**

Page 2, line 13, after "supplied" insert "**or school sanctioned"**.

Page 2, delete lines 19 through 22, begin a new line double block indented and insert:

"(B) A storage policy under which wireless communication devices may be brought to school, but must be stored away, powered off, and inaccessible to a student throughout the school day."

Page 2, line 23, strike "(d)" and insert "(e)".

Page 2, line 23, strike "(c)" and insert "(d)".

Page 2, line 34, after "superintendent's" insert "**designee; or"**.

Page 2, delete line 35.

Page 2, line 39, strike "(e)" and insert "(f)".

Page 2, line 41, strike "(c)." and insert "(d)".

Page 2, line 42, delete "(f)" and insert "(g)".

Page 3, line 1, delete "section." and insert "**section, which may include guidance for how existing lockers and resources can be used to comply with this section."**

Page 3, line 2, delete "(g)" and insert "(h)".

Page 3, between lines 9 and 10, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"(i) Notwithstanding subsections (a) through (g), a student may possess and use an unobtrusive audio recording device solely for the student's individual educational notetaking or personal learning assistance if the device:

- (1) is designed principally to capture spoken word audio for the purpose described in this subsection, including through recording, transcription, summarization, or other personal assistant functionality;**
- (2) does not capture, store, or transmit images or video;**
- (3) is visible to the classroom teacher or other appropriate school personnel at all times while in use;**
- (4) is provided to the school for inspection upon request; and**
- (5) is used in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal law governing consent to audio recording.**

(j) Except as provided in subsection (e), nothing in the exemption under subsection (i) shall be interpreted to limit a school's authority to adopt and enforce policies to control or



restrict the possession or use of audio recording devices described in subsection (i), including policies that:

- (1) restrict where and when such devices may be used while at school;
- (2) prohibit the use of the devices during an assessment or other activity designated by the school;
- (3) prohibit the real time transmission, broadcasting, or live streaming of audio recorded by the devices;
- (4) require advance notification to either a classroom teacher or building administrator as may be applicable in the school's policy before use;
- (5) require that recorded material be stored, retained, or deleted in a manner consistent with school policy; and
- (6) require consent requirements consistent with applicable law for the recording of another student or school employee.

(k) A school corporation or charter school that adopts a policy under this section that permits the possession or use of an audio recording device under subsection (i) shall include in the policy a provision that a recording made under subsection (i) may not be used for a disciplinary, evaluative, or supervisory purpose against a:

- (1) student; or
- (2) school employee."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 78 as reprinted January 14, 2026.)

BEHNING

Committee Vote: yeas 12, nays 0.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred Engrossed Senate Bill 78, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 3, line 9, after "building;" insert "**or**".

Page 3, line 10, strike "or" and insert "**and**".

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Page 3, delete lines 14 through 15.

Page 3, delete line 42.

Delete pages 4 through 6.

Page 7, delete lines 1 through 22.

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to ESB 78 as printed February 12, 2026.)

THOMPSON

Committee Vote: yeas 21, nays 3.

