
ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL No. 78

AM007815 has been incorporated into February 12, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: Wireless communication device policy.

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ES 78—LS 6411/DI 152



February 12, 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.

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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
 2 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL
 3 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 4 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) The Indiana secured school fund is
 5 established to provide:

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

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

12 (i) local law enforcement agency;
 13 (ii) private entity; or
 14 (iii) nonprofit corporation;
 15 to employ a school resource officer or a law enforcement
 16 officer;
 17 (B) conduct:

ES 78—LS 6411/DI 152



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

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- 1 (i) site vulnerability assessments;
 2 (ii) mental health or behavioral health threat
 3 assessments;
 4 (iii) multi-disciplinary threat assessment teams; or
 5 (iv) emergency preparedness or response activities;
 6 (G) provide funding for school resource officers or law
 7 enforcement officers described in clause (A) to receive
 8 training, including expenses for per diem, travel, and
 9 lodging, related to handling a canine trained to detect drugs
 10 and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to
 11 otherwise provide protection for students and school
 12 employees;
 13 (H) purchase student safety management technology;
 14 (I) design and construct additions or renovations on school
 15 property if the primary purpose of the construction project
 16 is to enhance the physical security of the school building;
 17 (J) implement a bullying prevention program; or
 18 ~~(K) develop, implement, and carry out a Stop the Bleed~~
 19 ~~program required by IC 20-34-3-24, including for the~~
 20 ~~purchase of bleeding control kits; and~~
 21 **(K) purchase a storage pouch for purposes described in**
 22 **IC 20-26-5-40.7(d)(3)(B); and**
 23 (2) one (1) time grants to enable school corporations, charter
 24 schools, and accredited nonpublic schools with the sheriff for the
 25 county in which the school corporation, charter school, or
 26 accredited nonpublic school is located, to provide the initial set
 27 up costs for an active event warning system.
 28 (b) A school corporation or charter school may use money
 29 received under a matching grant for a purpose listed in subsection (a)
 30 to provide a response to a threat in a manner that the school corporation
 31 or charter school sees fit, including firearms training or other
 32 self-defense training.
 33 (c) The fund shall be administered by the department of homeland
 34 security.
 35 (d) The fund consists of:
 36 (1) appropriations from the general assembly;
 37 (2) federal grants;
 38 (3) amounts deposited from any other public or private source;
 39 and
 40 (4) amounts deposited under IC 33-37-9-4.
 41 (e) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from
 42 money in the fund.

ES 78—LS 6411/DI 152



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ES 78—LS 6411/DI 152



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- 1 (A) be primarily assigned to a school corporation, charter
- 2 school, or accredited nonpublic school;
- 3 (B) be primarily assigned to a school resource officer or law
- 4 enforcement officer described in subdivision (1)(A) who
- 5 has received appropriate training for handling a canine
- 6 trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or
- 7 firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and
- 8 school employees, including training regarding handling a
- 9 canine in a school setting; and
- 10 (C) receive continuous training as appropriate;
- 11 (7) provide funding for:
 - 12 (A) school employees to receive training, including
 - 13 expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging, related to:
 - 14 (i) site vulnerability assessments;
 - 15 (ii) mental health or behavioral health threat
 - 16 assessments;
 - 17 (iii) multi-disciplinary threat assessment teams; or
 - 18 (iv) emergency preparedness or response activities; or
 - 19 (B) school resource officers or law enforcement officers
 - 20 described in subdivision (1)(A) to receive training,
 - 21 including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging, related
 - 22 to handling a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal
 - 23 substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide
 - 24 protection for students and school employees;
- 25 (8) design and construct additions or renovations on school
- 26 property if the primary purpose of the construction project is to
- 27 enhance the physical security of the school building;
- 28 (9) provide one (1) time grants to enable school corporations,
- 29 charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools with the
- 30 sheriff for the county in which the school corporation, charter
- 31 school, or accredited nonpublic school is located to provide the
- 32 initial set up costs for an active event warning system;
- 33 (10) implement a bullying prevention program; ~~or~~
- 34 (11) purchase student safety management technology; ~~or~~
- 35 **(12) purchase a storage pouch for purposes described in**
- 36 **IC 20-26-5-40.7(d)(3)(B);**
- 37 in accordance with section 2(a) of this chapter.
- 38 (b) A matching grant awarded to a school corporation, charter
- 39 school, or accredited nonpublic school (or a coalition of schools
- 40 applying jointly) may not exceed the lesser of the following during a
- 41 two (2) year period beginning on or after May 1, 2013:
 - 42 (1) The total cost of the program established by the school

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- 1 corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school (or
 2 the coalition of schools applying jointly).
- 3 (2) Except as provided in subsection (d), the following amounts:
 4 (A) Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) per year, in the
 5 case of a school corporation, charter school, or accredited
 6 nonpublic school that:
 7 (i) has an ADM of at least one (1) and less than one
 8 thousand one (1,001) students; and
 9 (ii) is not applying jointly with any other school
 10 corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic
 11 school.
- 12 (B) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per year, in the case of
 13 a school corporation, charter school, or accredited
 14 nonpublic school that:
 15 (i) has an ADM of more than one thousand (1,000) and
 16 less than five thousand one (5,001) students; and
 17 (ii) is not applying jointly with any other school
 18 corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic
 19 school.
- 20 (C) Seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) per year, in the
 21 case of a school corporation, charter school, or accredited
 22 nonpublic school that:
 23 (i) has an ADM of more than five thousand (5,000) and
 24 less than fifteen thousand one (15,001) students; and
 25 (ii) is not applying jointly with any other school
 26 corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic
 27 school.
- 28 (D) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year, in
 29 the case of a school corporation, charter school, or
 30 accredited nonpublic school that:
 31 (i) has an ADM of more than fifteen thousand
 32 (15,000); and
 33 (ii) is not applying jointly with any other school
 34 corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic
 35 school.
- 36 (E) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year, in
 37 the case of a coalition of schools applying jointly.
- 38 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d), the match requirement
 39 for a grant under this chapter is based on the ADM for the school
 40 corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school (or coalition
 41 of schools applying jointly) that is the subject of the grant as follows:
 42 (1) For a school corporation, charter school, or accredited

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- 1 nonpublic school with an ADM of less than five hundred one
 2 (501) students, the grant match must be twenty-five percent
 3 (25%) of the grant amount described in subsection (b).
 4 (2) For a school corporation, charter school, or accredited
 5 nonpublic school with an ADM of more than five hundred (500)
 6 and less than one thousand one (1,001) students, the grant match
 7 must be fifty percent (50%) of the grant amount described in
 8 subsection (b).
 9 (3) For a school corporation, charter school, or accredited
 10 nonpublic school with an ADM of more than one thousand
 11 (1,000) students or a coalition of schools applying jointly, the
 12 grant match must be one hundred percent (100%) of the grant
 13 amount described in subsection (b).
 14 (d) A school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic
 15 school may be eligible to receive a grant of up to:
 16 (1) one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) if:
 17 (A) the school corporation, charter school, or accredited
 18 nonpublic school receives a grant match of one hundred
 19 percent (100%) of the requested grant amount; and
 20 (B) the board approves the grant request; or
 21 (2) for a school corporation, charter school, or accredited
 22 nonpublic school described in subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2), a grant
 23 of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) if:
 24 (A) the school corporation, charter school, or accredited
 25 nonpublic school receives a grant match of fifty percent
 26 (50%) of the requested grant amount; and
 27 (B) the board approves the grant request.
 28 (e) A school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic
 29 school may receive only one (1) matching grant under this section each
 30 year.
 31 (f) The board may not award a grant to a school corporation,
 32 charter school, or accredited nonpublic school under this section unless
 33 the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school
 34 is in a county that has a county school safety commission, as described
 35 in section 12 of this chapter.
 36 SECTION 3. IC 20-26-5-40.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.24-2024,
 37 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 38 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 40.7. (a) As used in this section, "~~instructional~~
 39 ~~time~~" has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 20-30-2-1~~. "**school day**" means
 40 **the entirety of the time a student is present on school property for**
 41 **a student instructional day (as defined in IC 20-30-2-2).**
 42 (b) As used in this section, "school sanctioned wireless

ES 78—LS 6411/DI 152



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1 **communication device" means a wireless communication device**
 2 **that:**

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

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

- 16 (1) cellular telephone;
 17 (2) tablet computer;
 18 (3) laptop computer; ~~or~~
 19 (4) gaming device; ~~or~~
 20 **(5) smartwatch that is connected to a cellular telephone, a**
 21 **cell tower, or the Internet.**

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

23 ~~(c)~~ **(d)** ~~Except as provided in subsection (e),~~ each school
 24 corporation and charter school shall adopt and implement a wireless
 25 communication device policy that:

- 26 (1) ~~except as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3); subdivision~~
 27 **(2), and subsection (d);** prohibits a student from using a wireless
 28 communication device during ~~instructional time; the school~~
 29 **day;**

- 30 ~~(2) authorizes a teacher to allow a student to use a wireless~~
 31 ~~communication device for educational purposes during~~
 32 ~~instructional time; and~~

- 33 ~~(3) permits a student to use a wireless communication device in~~
 34 ~~the event of an emergency or to manage the student's health care.~~

- 35 **(2) requires teacher directed use of a wireless communication**
 36 **device for educational purposes during the school day to**
 37 **occur only on school supplied or school sanctioned wireless**
 38 **communication devices; and**

- 39 **(3) mandates one (1) of the following policies:**

- 40 **(A) A no device policy under which students are not**
 41 **permitted to bring wireless communication devices to**
 42 **school.**

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

5 ~~(d)~~ **(e)** The policy adopted and implemented under subsection ~~(e)~~
 6 **(d)** may not prohibit a student from using a wireless communication
 7 device during ~~instructional time~~ **the school day** if the use of the
 8 wireless communication device is: ~~included in the student's~~

9 **(1) included in the student's** individualized education program;

10 **or**

11 **(2) included in the student's** plan developed under Section 504
 12 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794;

13 **(3) necessary for the management of a documented medical**
 14 **condition pursuant to an order provided by a licensed health**
 15 **care provider;**

16 **(4) authorized by the superintendent, or the superintendent's**
 17 **designee; or**

18 **(5) necessary for language translation to ensure access for**
 19 **multi-lingual learners, prioritizing school-managed wireless**
 20 **communication devices or applications where available.**

21 ~~(e)~~ **(f)** Each school corporation and charter school shall publish on
 22 its website the wireless communication device policy established under
 23 subsection ~~(e)~~: **(d)**.

24 **(g) The department shall publish model policy language and**
 25 **implementation guidance consistent with this section, which may**
 26 **include guidance for how existing lockers and resources can be**
 27 **used to comply with this section.**

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

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

40 **(1) is designed principally to capture spoken word audio for**
 41 **the purpose described in this subsection, including through**
 42 **recording, transcription, summarization, or other personal**

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- 1 assistant functionality;
- 2 (2) does not capture, store, or transmit images or video;
- 3 (3) is visible to the classroom teacher or other appropriate
- 4 school personnel at all times while in use;
- 5 (4) is provided to the school for inspection upon request; and
- 6 (5) is used in a manner consistent with applicable state and
- 7 federal law governing consent to audio recording.
- 8 (j) Except as provided in subsection (e), nothing in the
- 9 exemption under subsection (i) shall be interpreted to limit a
- 10 school's authority to adopt and enforce policies to control or
- 11 restrict the possession or use of audio recording devices described
- 12 in subsection (i), including policies that:
- 13 (1) restrict where and when such devices may be used while
- 14 at school;
- 15 (2) prohibit the use of the devices during an assessment or
- 16 other activity designated by the school;
- 17 (3) prohibit the real time transmission, broadcasting, or live
- 18 streaming of audio recorded by the devices;
- 19 (4) require advance notification to either a classroom teacher
- 20 or building administrator as may be applicable in the
- 21 school's policy before use;
- 22 (5) require that recorded material be stored, retained, or
- 23 deleted in a manner consistent with school policy; and
- 24 (6) require consent requirements consistent with applicable
- 25 law for the recording of another student or school employee.
- 26 (k) A school corporation or charter school that adopts a policy
- 27 under this section that permits the possession or use of an audio
- 28 recording device under subsection (i) shall include in the policy a
- 29 provision that a recording made under subsection (i) may not be
- 30 used for a disciplinary, evaluative, or supervisory purpose against
- 31 a:
- 32 (1) student; or
- 33 (2) school employee.
- 34 (l) If a school corporation or charter school stores a student's
- 35 wireless communication device as provided under subsection
- 36 (d)(3)(B), the school corporation or charter school may charge the:
- 37 (1) parent of a student if the student is an unemancipated
- 38 minor; or
- 39 (2) student if the student is an adult or emancipated minor;
- 40 a fee in the amount of not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25), as
- 41 determined by the school corporation or charter school, for costs
- 42 associated with the storage of the student's wireless communication

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1 **device.**
2 SECTION 4. IC 34-30-2.1-271.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
3 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
4 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 271.5. IC 20-26-5-40.7**
5 **(Concerning school corporations, schools maintained by school**
6 **corporations, charter schools, school personnel, and compliance**
7 **with a school's wireless communication device policy).**

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ES 78—LS 6411/DI 152



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