



January 16, 2026

SENATE BILL No. 159

DIGEST OF SB 159 (Updated January 14, 2026 4:56 pm - DI 143)

Citations Affected: IC 20-20; IC 20-26.

Synopsis: School technology plans and policies. Requires school corporations and charter schools (schools) to include in the school's technology plan a description of the school's plan to: (1) ensure the appropriate use of technological devices in schools; and (2) enable parents of students to exercise control over a student's technological devices while the student is not in school. Not later than January 1, 2027, requires a school to include in the school's Internet use policy a provision that enables the parent of a student to increase the strength of certain filters, block access to websites or content, and limit the use of certain devices. Requires a school to include in the school's wireless communication device policy a provision that prohibits a student from using school supplied technological devices for a noneducational purpose during instructional time.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Deery, Johnson T

January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.
January 15, 2026, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

SB 159—LS 6604/DI 143



January 16, 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.

SENATE BILL No. 159

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 20-20-13-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.189-2023,
2 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a:

4 (1) school corporation may not:

5 (A) receive any money under this chapter;

6 (B) use money from the school corporation's education fund
7 for educational technology equipment under IC 20-40-2; or

8 (C) receive an advance from the common school fund for an
9 educational technology program under IC 20-49-4; and

10 (2) charter school may not receive:

11 (A) a technology plan grant under sections 13 through 24 of
12 this chapter; or

13 (B) an advance from the common school fund for an
14 educational technology program under IC 20-49-4;

15 unless the school corporation or charter school develops a three (3)
16 year technology plan.

17 (b) Each technology plan must include at least the following

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information:

(1) A description of the school corporation's or charter school's intent to integrate technology into the school corporation's or charter school's curriculum.

(2) A plan for providing inservice training.

(3) A schedule for maintaining and replacing educational technology equipment.

(4) A description of the criteria used to select the appropriate educational technology equipment for the appropriate use.

(5) A description of the school corporation's or charter school's plan to:

(A) ensure the appropriate use of technological devices in schools; and

(B) enable parents of students to exercise control over a student's technological devices while the student is not in school as described in IC 20-26-5-40.5(c).

~~(5)~~ **(6)** Other information requested by the department after consulting with the budget agency.

(c) The department shall develop guidelines concerning the development of technology plans. The guidelines developed under this subsection are subject to the approval of the governor.

SECTION 2. IC 20-26-5-40.5, AS AMENDED BY THE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 40.5. (a) ~~Not later than January 1, 2022~~, Each school corporation and charter school shall adopt and implement an Internet use policy that:

(1) prohibits the sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading of materials that are harmful to minors (as described in IC 35-49-2-2) on computers and other technology related devices owned by the school corporation or charter school;

(2) provides for the use of hardware or installation of software on computers and other technology related devices described in subdivision (1) to filter or block Internet access to materials that are harmful to minors; and

(3) establishes appropriate disciplinary measures to be taken against persons violating the policy established under this section.

(b) ~~Not later than January 1, 2022~~, Each school corporation and charter school shall use hardware or install software on computers and other technology related devices described in subsection (a)(1) to filter or block Internet access to materials that are harmful to minors.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2027, each school corporation and



1 charter school shall adopt and implement a policy that enables the
2 parent of a student to:

- 3 (1) increase the strength of the filter described in subsection
4 (b);
5 (2) block access to websites or content accessible on a device
6 described in subsection (a)(1); and
7 (3) limit the amount of time a device described in subsection
8 (a)(1) may be used by the student while the student is not in
9 school.

10 A school to which this subsection applies must inform each parent
11 of a student enrolled in the school of the policy described in this
12 subsection.

13 ~~(c)~~ (d) Each school corporation and charter school shall post on the
14 school corporation's or charter school's ~~Internet web site~~ website the
15 Internet use policy established under subsection (a).

16 SECTION 3. IC 20-26-5-40.7, AS ADDED BY P.L.24-2024,
17 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
18 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 40.7. (a) As used in this section, "instructional
19 time" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-30-2-1.

20 (b) As used in this section, "wireless communication device" means
21 any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice,
22 messaging, or other data communication between two (2) or more
23 parties, including a:

- 24 (1) cellular telephone;
25 (2) tablet computer;
26 (3) laptop computer; or
27 (4) gaming device.

28 (c) Each school corporation and charter school shall adopt and
29 implement a wireless communication device policy that:

- 30 (1) except as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3) and subsection
31 (d), prohibits a student from using a:

32 (A) wireless communication device during instructional time;
33 and

34 (B) school supplied wireless communication device for a
35 noneducational purpose during instructional time;

- 36 (2) authorizes a teacher to allow a student to use a wireless
37 communication device for educational purposes during
38 instructional time; and

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

41 (d) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection (c) may
42 not prohibit a student from using a wireless communication device



- 1 during instructional time if the use of the wireless communication
2 device is included in the student's:
3 (1) individualized education program; or
4 (2) plan developed under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation
5 Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.
6 (e) Each school corporation and charter school shall publish on its
7 website the wireless communication device policy established under
8 subsection (c).



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 159, 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 3, between lines 2 and 3, begin a new line block indented and insert:

"(1) increase the strength of the filter described in subsection (b);
(2) block access to websites or content accessible on a device described in subsection (a)(1); and
(3) limit the amount of time a device described in subsection (a)(1) may be used by the student while the student is not in school."

Page 3, delete lines 3 through 7.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 159 as introduced.)

RAATZ, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 12, Nays 1.

