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SENATE BILL No. 159

Proposed Changes to introduced printing by AM015901

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Access to websites or content. Provides that a parent of a student may block access to websites or content accessible on certain devices.

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
18 information:
19 (1) A description of the school corporation's or charter school's
20 intent to integrate technology into the school corporation's or
21 charter school's curriculum.

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

(1) increase the strength of the filter described in subsection

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(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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) wireless communication device during instructional time; **and**

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

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

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

(d) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection (c) may not prohibit a student from using a wireless communication device during instructional time if the use of the wireless communication device is included in the student's:

(1) individualized education program; or

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1 (2) plan developed under Section 504 of the federal
2 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.

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