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SENATE BILL No. 159

Proposed Changes to January 23, 2026 printing by AM015903

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Technology policies. Replaces the use of the term "instructional time".

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

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- 1 charter school's curriculum.
- 2 (2) A plan for providing inservice training.
- 3 (3) A schedule for maintaining and replacing educational
- 4 technology equipment.
- 5 (4) A description of the criteria used to select the appropriate
- 6 educational technology equipment for the appropriate use.
- 7 **(5) A description of the school corporation's or charter**
- 8 **school's plan to:**
- 9 **(A) ensure the appropriate use of technological devices**
- 10 **in schools; and**
- 11 **(B) enable parents of students to exercise control over a**
- 12 **student's technological devices as described in**
- 13 **IC 20-26-5-40.5(c) while the student is not:**
- 14 **(i) in school; or**
- 15 **(ii) engaged in virtual instruction or remote**
- 16 **learning.**
- 17 ~~(5)~~ **(6)** Other information requested by the department after
- 18 consulting with the budget agency.
- 19 (c) The department shall develop guidelines concerning the
- 20 development of technology plans. The guidelines developed under this
- 21 subsection are subject to the approval of the governor.
- 22 SECTION 2. IC 20-26-5-40.5, AS AMENDED BY THE
- 23 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL
- 24 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 25 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 40.5. (a) ~~Not later than January 1, 2022;~~ Each
- 26 school corporation and charter school shall adopt and implement an
- 27 Internet use policy that:
- 28 (1) prohibits the sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading of
- 29 materials that are harmful to minors (as described in
- 30 IC 35-49-2-2) on computers and other technology related devices
- 31 owned by the school corporation or charter school;
- 32 (2) provides for the use of hardware or installation of software on
- 33 computers and other technology related devices described in
- 34 subdivision (1) to filter or block Internet access to materials that
- 35 are harmful to minors; and
- 36 (3) establishes appropriate disciplinary measures to be taken
- 37 against persons violating the policy established under this
- 38 section.
- 39 (b) ~~Not later than January 1, 2022;~~ Each school corporation and
- 40 charter school shall use hardware or install software on computers and
- 41 other technology related devices described in subsection (a)(1) to filter
- 42 or block Internet access to materials that are harmful to minors.

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1 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e), not later than January
 2 1, 2027, each school corporation and charter school shall adopt and
 3 implement a policy that enables the parent of a student to:
 4 (1) increase the strength of the filter described in subsection
 5 (b);
 6 (2) block access to websites or content accessible on a device
 7 described in subsection (a)(1); and
 8 (3) limit the amount of time a device described in subsection
 9 (a)(1) may be used by the student;
 10 while the student is not in school or engaged in virtual instruction
 11 or remote learning. A school to which this subsection applies must
 12 inform each parent of a student enrolled in the school of the policy
 13 described in this subsection.

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

17 (e) A school to which this section applies that, as of June 30,
 18 2026, has a contract with a vendor that:

19 (1) provides for the implementation of the requirements of
 20 subsection (b); and

21 (2) cannot provide for the implementation of the
 22 requirements of subsection (c);

23 is exempt from the requirements of subsection (c) until the
 24 expiration or renewal of the contract. This subsection expires July
 25 1, 2030.

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

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

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

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

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

42 (A) wireless communication device during instructional

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1 time; and
 2 **(B) school supplied wireless communication device for**
 3 **a noneducational purpose during <instructional**
 4 **time>[the school day];**
 5 (2) authorizes a teacher to allow a student to use a wireless
 6 communication device for educational purposes during
 7 instructional time; and
 8 (3) permits a student to use a wireless communication device in
 9 the event of an emergency or to manage the student's health care.
 10 (d) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection (c) may
 11 not prohibit a student from using a wireless communication device
 12 during instructional time if the use of the wireless communication
 13 device is included in the student's:
 14 (1) individualized education program; or
 15 (2) plan developed under Section 504 of the federal
 16 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.
 17 (e) Each school corporation and charter school shall publish on its
 18 website the wireless communication device policy established under
 19 subsection (c).[]

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