



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Substitute Bill No. 5035**



**AN ACT REQUIRING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO BAN CELLULAR PHONES IN THE CLASSROOM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2027*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Wireless communication device" means any portable wireless  
3 device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging or other data  
4 communication between two or more parties, including, but not limited  
5 to, a (A) cellular phone, (B) tablet, (C) computer, (D) gaming device, or  
6 (E) smart watch. "Wireless communication device" does not include any  
7 technology provided by the school district for instructional purposes;
- 8 (2) "School day" means the time between the scheduled start and end  
9 times of the days in the local or regional board of education's academic  
10 calendar for grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive; and
- 11 (3) "Access" means viewing, wearing or otherwise using a wireless  
12 communication device for the purpose of communication, accessing the  
13 Internet, gaming or any other function commonly associated with a  
14 wireless communication device.
- 15 (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (2) of this  
16 subsection, no student in a public school in the state shall be permitted  
17 to access such student's wireless communication device on school  
18 property during the school day unless such access is authorized for

19 instructional purposes. All such devices shall be powered off and stored  
20 in a manner prescribed by the local or regional board of education,  
21 including, but not limited to, in a student's locker or in a specified  
22 location.

23 (2) A student in a public school in the state may use or access a  
24 wireless communication device during the school day if (A) such use or  
25 access is required under such student's individualized education  
26 program, in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education  
27 Improvement Act of 2004 and sections 10-76a to 10-76ooo, inclusive, of  
28 the general statutes, or is necessary to implement the provisions of an  
29 accommodations plan for such student pursuant to Section 504 of the  
30 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, for such  
31 student, or (B) a licensed physician, physician assistant or advanced  
32 practice registered nurse determines that such use or access is necessary  
33 for the health and well-being of such student.

34 (c) No student in a public school in the state may access any social  
35 media platforms through the use of the Internet provided by the school  
36 during the school day, except such access to a social media platform may  
37 be permitted when such access is for instructional purposes.

38 (d) Each local and regional board of education shall develop policies  
39 and procedures for the implementation of the provisions of this section.  
40 Such policies and procedures shall include, but need not be limited to,  
41 procedures for communicating between boards of education and  
42 parents and guardians of students in the event of an emergency that  
43 occurs during the school day and disciplinary procedures for violations  
44 of the provisions of subsection (b) or (c) of this section.

45 (e) Each local and regional board of education shall annually notify  
46 the parents and guardians of students regarding the policies and  
47 procedures described in subsection (d) of this section and include such  
48 policies and procedures in the student handbooks for the school district.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                     |             |
| Section 1   | <i>July 1, 2027</i> | New section |

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Subsec. (c), "shall be permitted to" was changed to "may" for clarity.

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*