

House File 2347 - Introduced

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring school districts and accredited nonpublic
2 schools to develop and establish a policy limiting the use
3 of smartphones in classroom learning environments.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 280.18 Smartphone use policy.

2 1. The board of directors of each school district and the
3 authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall develop
4 and establish a policy to limit student smartphone use during
5 class and in classroom learning environments in kindergarten
6 through grade twelve.

7 2. A policy adopted pursuant to subsection 1 shall
8 allow smartphone use by students in any of the following
9 circumstances:

10 a. In the case of an emergency or in response to a perceived
11 threat of danger.

12 b. When a licensed physician or mental health professional
13 determines that the possession or use of a smartphone is
14 necessary for the health or well-being of the student.

15 c. The possession or use of a smartphone is required by a
16 student's individualized education program or plan developed in
17 compliance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,
18 29 U.S.C. §794, as amended.

19 d. At the discretion of the classroom teacher for research
20 purposes or to clarify a classroom assignment.

21 e. Other circumstances prescribed by rule by the state board
22 of education.

23 3. The department of education shall develop and issue
24 guidance to school districts and nonpublic schools using
25 evidence-based best practices for the development and
26 implementation of policies that limit smartphone use in
27 classrooms and in classroom learning environments.

28 4. For purposes of this section, "smartphone" means a
29 mobile phone that performs many of the functions of a computer,
30 typically has a touchscreen interface, internet access, and
31 operating system capable of running downloaded applications,
32 capturing video, sending and receiving texts, electronic mail,
33 and messages, and social media posts on various platforms.
34 "Smartphone" does not include a tablet, laptop, or computer that
35 is used in classroom instruction.

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EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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4 This bill directs school districts and accredited nonpublic
5 schools to develop and establish policies to limit student
6 smartphone use during class and in classroom learning
7 environments in K-12, and directs the department of education
8 to issue evidence-based, best practices guidance for the
9 development and implementation of such policies.

10 Policies shall allow smartphone use by students in the
11 case of an emergency or perceived threat of danger, when a
12 licensed physician or mental health professional determines
13 that the smartphone is necessary for the health or well-being
14 of the student, when possession or use of a smartphone is
15 required by a student with special needs, at the discretion of
16 the classroom teacher for research purposes or to clarify a
17 classroom assignment, or under other circumstances prescribed
18 by rule by the state board of education. The bill defines
19 "smartphone".