

House File 782 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 782
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 106)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to electronic devices in schools, including
2 student access during instructional hours and school safety
3 plans, and including effective date provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 69. Develop and distribute to school
4 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and
5 innovation zone schools model policies that, if adopted, would
6 satisfy the school district's, charter school's, or innovation
7 zone school's responsibilities under section 279.87 relating to
8 policies governing student use of personal electronic devices.

9 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **279.87 Limitation on the use of**
10 **personal electronic devices.**

11 1. Commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2025,
12 the board of directors of each school district shall adopt
13 policies regarding student use of personal electronic devices
14 during school hours that restrict student use of such devices
15 during classroom instructional time. The policies must meet all
16 of the following requirements:

17 a. Identify policies and information related to various
18 educational devices and technologies that will be made available
19 to students for instructional purposes.

20 b. Identify the methods that a parent or guardian of a
21 student may use to communicate with the student during school
22 hours or while the student is participating in a school-sponsored
23 activity.

24 c. Identify the methods that a parent or guardian of a
25 student may use to communicate with the student during an
26 emergency situation.

27 d. Include protocols that the school district will use to
28 securely store a student's personal electronic device when such
29 device is in the possession of the school district.

30 e. Specify the discipline associated with a student's
31 violation of the policies, including the discipline associated
32 with a student's use of a personal electronic device during
33 classroom instruction or during the administration of an
34 assessment.

35 f. Establish a process through which a student's parent

1 or guardian may petition the school district to allow the
2 student to maintain access to the student's personal electronic
3 device during the portion of the school day in which classroom
4 instructional time is delivered if the student's parent or
5 guardian can establish that there is a legitimate reason related
6 to the student's physical or mental health for the student to
7 maintain access to the device during such time.

8 g. Allow a student who has an individualized education
9 program, or a plan under section 504 of the federal
10 Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794, to maintain access to the
11 student's personal electronic device during the portion of the
12 school day in which classroom instructional time is delivered
13 if the student's individualized education program, or plan under
14 section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794,
15 requires the student to maintain such access.

16 2. The board of directors of a school district may adopt
17 policies that limit student use of personal electronic devices
18 during school hours, including the use of such devices during
19 classroom instructional time, that are more stringent than the
20 model policies developed and distributed by the director of the
21 department of education pursuant to section 256.9, subsection 69.

22 3. For purposes of this section, "*personal electronic*
23 *device*" includes but is not limited to electronic communication
24 equipment, mobile phones, smart phones, video game devices, and
25 portable media players.

26 4. The state board of education may adopt rules pursuant to
27 chapter 17A to administer this section.

28 Sec. 3. REVISION OF HIGH-QUALITY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
29 PLANS.

30 1. The department of education and the department of public
31 safety shall do all of the following:

32 a. Consult regarding revisions that school districts need
33 to make to high-quality emergency operations plans developed
34 pursuant to section 280.30 to take into account the provisions
35 of section 279.87, as enacted by this Act, and revisions that

1 accredited nonpublic schools may make to such plans to take into
2 account policies regarding student use of personal electronic
3 devices during school hours.

4 b. Provide support and guidance to school districts regarding
5 how to revise high-quality emergency operations plans developed
6 pursuant to section 280.30 so that such plans are consistent
7 with the provisions of section 279.87, as enacted by this Act,
8 and provide similar support and guidance to accredited nonpublic
9 schools that elect to adopt policies regarding student use of
10 personal electronic devices during school hours.

11 2. On or before July 1, 2025, each school district shall
12 revise the school district's high-quality emergency operations
13 plans developed pursuant to section 280.30 so that such plans are
14 consistent with the provisions of section 279.87, as enacted by
15 this Act.

16 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. The following, being deemed of
17 immediate importance, take effect upon enactment:

18 1. The section of this Act enacting section 279.87.

19 2. The section of this Act relating to the revision of
20 high-quality emergency operations plans.

21 EXPLANATION

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

24 This bill relates to electronic devices in schools, including
25 student access during instructional hours and school safety
26 plans.

27 Commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2025, the
28 bill requires school districts, charter schools, and innovation
29 zone schools to adopt policies regarding student use of personal
30 electronic devices during school hours. The bill establishes
31 what the policies are to include. The bill requires the director
32 of the department of education (DE) to develop and distribute
33 to schools model policies that, if adopted, would satisfy the
34 school's responsibilities under these provisions. However,
35 schools may adopt policies that are more stringent than these

1 model policies. The bill defines "personal electronic device" to
2 include electronic communication equipment, mobile phones, smart
3 phones, video game devices, and portable media players. These
4 provisions take effect upon enactment.

5 The bill requires DE and the department of public safety
6 to consult regarding revisions that schools may need to make
7 to high-quality emergency operations plans developed pursuant
8 to Code section 280.30 to take into account the policies
9 adopted pursuant to the bill's provisions and to provide support
10 and guidance to schools regarding how to revise high-quality
11 emergency operations plans so that such plans are consistent with
12 the bill's provisions. The bill also requires school districts
13 to revise the high-quality emergency operations plans on or
14 before July 1, 2025, so that such plans are consistent with the
15 bill's provisions. These provisions take effect upon enactment.

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