

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:

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2025, is amended by adding
2 the 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
16 all of the following requirements:

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

20 b. Identify the methods that a parent or guardian of
21 a student may use to communicate with the student during
22 school hours or while the student is participating in a
23 school-sponsored 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
6 related to the student's physical or mental health for the
7 student to 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
14 under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C.
15 §794, 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
22 69.

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

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

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

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

33 a. Consult regarding revisions that school districts need
34 to make to high-quality emergency operations plans developed
35 pursuant to section 280.30 to take into account the provisions

1 of section 279.87, as enacted by this Act, and revisions
2 that accredited nonpublic schools may make to such plans to
3 take into account policies regarding student use of personal
4 electronic devices during school hours.

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

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

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

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

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

23 EXPLANATION

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

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

29 Commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2025,
30 the bill requires school districts, charter schools, and
31 innovation zone schools to adopt policies regarding student
32 use of personal electronic devices during school hours. The
33 bill establishes what the policies are to include. The bill
34 requires the director of the department of education (DE) to
35 develop and distribute to schools model policies that, if

1 adopted, would satisfy the school's responsibilities under
2 these provisions. However, schools may adopt policies that
3 are more stringent than these model policies. The bill
4 defines "personal electronic device" to include electronic
5 communication equipment, mobile phones, smart phones, video
6 game devices, and portable media players. These provisions
7 take effect upon enactment.

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