
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2025 Assembly Bill 2

Assembly Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1

Under current law, a school board may adopt rules prohibiting a student from possessing an electronic communication device while on premises owned or rented by, or under the control of, a public school. If a school board adopts such rules, it must annually provide each student enrolled in the school district with a copy of the rules.

2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 2

2025 Assembly Bill 2 requires all public school boards, by July 1, 2026, to adopt a policy that prohibits students from using a wireless communication device during instructional time. The policy must define “wireless communication device” as a portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, and the policy must specify that a wireless communication device includes a cellular telephone, a tablet computer, a laptop computer, and a gaming device. The policy must include the following exceptions to the prohibition:

- In the event of an emergency or a perceived threat.
- To manage the student’s health care.
- A use included in a student’s individualized education program or a plan developed under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- A use authorized by a teacher for educational purposes during instructional time.

Also, the bill allows a school district’s policy to include additional exceptions if the school board determines doing so is beneficial to student learning or well-being.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 makes the following changes to the bill:

- Repeals the provision in current law discussed above that specifies that each school board may adopt rules prohibiting a student from possessing an electronic communication device while on premises owned or rented by, or under the control of, a public school.
- Excludes school district-issued wireless communication devices from being required to be prohibited by school board policy.
- Removes the ability for a school board to include additional exceptions to the prohibition when the school board determines that doing so is beneficial to student learning or well-being.
- Requires each school board to annually provide each student a copy of the board’s wireless communication device policy.

- By October 1, 2026, requires each school board to submit the district's device policy to the Office of School Safety in the Department of Justice (DOJ).
- By October 1, 2027, and each October 1 thereafter, requires each school board to notify the Office of School Safety in the DOJ of whether any changes were made to the previous school year's device policy and, if so, to submit the updated policy.
- Clarifies that the bill does not prohibit a school board from adopting a policy relating to the use or possession of wireless communication devices by students that is more restrictive than what is required under the bill.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 TO ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1 replaces the Office of School Safety in the DOJ with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as the entity that receives school district device policies and notifications about changes to those policies from each school district. The amendment also requires DPI to submit the policies it receives to the Office of School Safety in the DOJ and the Legislative Council within 14 days of receiving a policy or updated policy from a school district.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Kitchens offered Assembly Amendment 1 on February 12, 2025. On February 13, 2025, the Assembly Committee on Science, Technology, and AI recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 4; Noes, 2. Representative Kitchens offered Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1 on February 18, 2025. On February 19, 2025, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 1, both on voice votes, and passed Assembly Bill 2, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 53; Noes, 45.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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