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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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### 2025 Senate Bill 29

### Senate 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 SENATE BILL 29

2025 Senate Bill 29 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 table 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 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.

## SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate 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 with 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 Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

- By October 1, 2027, and each October 1 thereafter, requires each school board to notify DPI of whether any changes were made to the previous school year's device policy and, if so, to submit the updated policy.
- Requires DPI to submit the policies it receives to the Office of School Safety in the Department of Justice and the Legislative Council within 14 days of receiving a policy or updated policy from a school district.
- 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.

## **BILL HISTORY**

Senator Cabral-Guevara offered Senate Amendment 1 on February 24, 2024. On April 11, 2024, the Senate Committee on Education recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1 and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 4; Noes 1.

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

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