



2025 SENATE BILL 29

February 12, 2025 - Introduced by Senators CABRAL-GUEVARA and FEYEN, cosponsored by Representatives KITCHENS, KNODL, DITTRICH, DONOVAN, GREEN, B. JACOBSON, MELOTIK, MURPHY, MURSAU, NEDWESKI, O'CONNOR, STEFFEN and TUSLER. Referred to Committee on Education.

- 1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 119.04 (1); *to create* 120.12 (29) of the statutes; **relating to:**
- 2 requiring school boards to adopt policies to prohibit the use of wireless
- 3 communication devices during instructional time.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires each school board to adopt, by July 1, 2026, a policy that generally prohibits pupils from using wireless communication devices during instructional time. For purposes of these policies, the bill requires each school board to define a “wireless communication device” as a portable wireless device that is capable of providing voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties. The bill expressly states that this definition must include cellular phones, tablet computers, laptop computers, and gaming devices. Finally, under the bill, each school board must include in its wireless communication device policy exceptions to the general prohibition against using wireless communication devices during instructional time 1) for emergencies and perceived threats, 2) to manage a pupil’s health care, 3) for a use included in an individualized education program or 504 plan, and 4) for a use authorized by a teacher for educational purposes. The bill also authorizes a school board to include other exceptions if the school board determines that doing so is beneficial for pupil education or well-being.

SENATE BILL 29**SECTION 1**

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 119.04 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

119.04 (1) Subchapters IV, V and VII of ch. 115, ch. 121 and ss. 66.0235 (3) (c), 66.0603 (1m) to (3), 115.01 (1) and (2), 115.28, 115.31, 115.33, 115.34, 115.343, 115.345, 115.363, 115.364, 115.365 (3), 115.366, 115.367, 115.38 (2), 115.415, 115.445, 118.001 to 118.04, 118.045, 118.06, 118.07, 118.075, 118.076, 118.10, 118.12, 118.124, 118.125 to 118.14, 118.145 (4), 118.15, 118.153, 118.16, 118.162, 118.163, 118.164, 118.18, 118.19, 118.196, 118.20, 118.223, 118.225, 118.24 (1), (2) (c) to (f), (6), (8), and (10), 118.245, 118.25, 118.255, 118.258, 118.291, 118.292, 118.293, 118.2935, 118.30 to 118.43, 118.46, 118.50, 118.51, 118.52, 118.53, 118.55, 118.56, 118.58, 120.12 (2m), (4m), (5), ~~and~~ (15) to (27), and (29), 120.125, 120.13 (1), (2) (b) to (g), (3), (14), (17) to (19), (26), (34), (35), (37), (37m), and (38), 120.137, 120.14, 120.20, 120.21 (3), and 120.25 are applicable to a 1st class city school district and board but not, unless explicitly provided in this chapter or in the terms of a contract, to the commissioner or to any school transferred to an opportunity schools and partnership program.

SECTION 2. 120.12 (29) of the statutes is created to read:

120.12 (29) PROHIBITED USES OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES. (a) By July 1, 2026, adopt a wireless communication device policy that prohibits pupils from using a wireless communication device during instructional time. A school board may include in the policy under this paragraph consequences for a pupil violating the policy, including confiscating a pupil's wireless communication device for the remainder of the school day.

SENATE BILL 29**SECTION 2**

1 (b) Include all of the following in a policy under par. (a):

2 1. That "wireless communication device" means a portable wireless device
3 that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication
4 between 2 or more parties and includes all of the following:

5 a. A cellular telephone.

6 b. A tablet computer.

7 c. A laptop computer.

8 d. A gaming device.

9 2. Exceptions to the prohibition required under par. (a) for all of the following:

10 a. In the event of an emergency or a perceived threat.

11 b. To manage the pupil's health care.

12 c. A use included in a pupil's individualized education program or a plan
13 developed under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

14 d. A use authorized by a teacher for educational purposes during instructional
15 time.

16 3. Other exceptions to the prohibition required under par. (a) if the school
17 board determines doing so is beneficial to pupil learning or well-being.

18 (END)