



**PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY/BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS BOARD COMMITTEE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204
Room 103-104
100 South Brainard Avenue
La Grange, Illinois 60525
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 - 7:00 AM**

A G E N D A

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Introductions of Committee Members
- B. General information on focus topic for the year: IL Cell Phone Legislation (Public Act 104-0657) and Recommendations to the Board of Education for the required board policy 2
- C. Discussion and identification of questions/data/actions and steps for Meeting 2 (November 10, 2026)

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

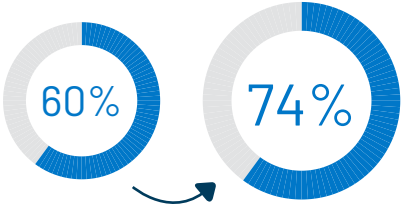
VI. ADJOURNMENT

BY ORDER OF
TIM ALBORES
LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204
100 SOUTH BRAINARD AVENUE
LA GRANGE, IL 60525

Model Cell Phone Policy

August 2026

The impact of cellphone use in schools is increasingly a topic of discussion nationwide. In partnership with the [Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University](#), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) invited superintendents, principals, and licensed staff from Illinois public and charter schools to participate in the first national survey dedicated to understanding how cellphone policies play out in real classrooms. [Phones in Focus](#) is a nonpartisan national research initiative exploring how school cellphone policies impact student learning, engagement, and wellbeing. [Data from the Phones in Focus study](#) found the following:

• Bell-to-bell bans are becoming the norm. Between the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years, the proportion of schools with bell-to-bell bans in this national sample increased  The figure consists of two donut charts. The first donut chart on the left is partially filled with blue and represents 60%. The second donut chart on the right is more filled with blue and represents 74%. A curved arrow points from the 60% chart to the 74% chart, indicating an increase over time.	• High school policies are more permissive. In this national sample: 5 in 10 high schools have bell-to-bell policies. 9 in 10 elementary and middle schools have bell-to-bell policies.
• Laptops present a new challenge for distraction. On average, teachers in this national sample estimate that: 1 in 3  students are using laptops at school for nonacademic purposes like texting or social media.	• Benefits beyond the classroom.  In open-ended survey responses, many teachers say stricter phone policies are reshaping social dynamics.

Based on a [separate data collection](#) by the National Center for Education Statistics from December 2024, **52% of public school leaders reported that cellphone usage has negatively impacted their students’ academic performance, mental health, and attention span.**

Against this backdrop, [Public Act 104-0657](#), signed into law by Governor JB Pritzker on July 28, 2026, bans cellphones and other portable devices in Illinois classrooms, with limited exceptions.

To effectuate this ban, the Act mandates all Illinois school boards and charter schools to adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy with prescribed terms “on or before the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year.” Districts with wireless communication device policies in place before July 28, 2026, that limit the use of such devices during a majority or the entirety of the school day may maintain their existing policies through the 2030-31 school year, at which point they must adopt a wireless communication device policy that meets the requirements of Public Act 104-0657.

The following model policy toolkit was created to assist school districts and charter schools with their development of the required policy. This model policy toolkit is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice. School districts and charter schools should consult with their own legal counsel regarding the development, adoption, implementation, and application of policies consistent with applicable federal, state, and local law.

Policy Development Considerations:

- This act requires school boards and charter schools to gather and consider input from the teachers' local collective bargaining agent, if any; administrators; and parents/guardians when developing the wireless communication device policy. Student input is also encouraged. The development and review of the wireless communication device policy may be accomplished through the use of the parent-teacher advisory committee established under Section 10-20.14 of the School Code ([105 ILCS 5/10-20.14](#)).
- While this toolkit is designed for school boards that do not use the Illinois Association of School Boards' Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) materials, districts that use PRESS materials for their policies and administrative procedures may find this as a helpful resource. Schools and districts may wish to consult with the Illinois Association of School Boards for additional guidance specific to board policies and administrative procedures.

Please contact the Illinois State Board of Education Wellness and Student Care Department with any questions at wellness_student_care@isbe.net.

MODEL POLICY

Purpose: [The Board of Education for School District] recognizes that the purpose of this policy is to establish clear expectations regarding student possession and use of wireless communication devices during school time in accordance with state law, while ensuring appropriate accommodations, maintaining student safety, and supporting consistent implementation throughout the District. This policy is intended to minimize distractions in the educational environment and support students' learning, behavior, and well-being. This policy shall be implemented in a manner that is developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, equitable, and consistent across all District schools.

Definitions:

"Wireless communication device" means any portable electronic device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, including, but not limited to:

- Cellular telephones
- Tablet computers
- Laptop computers
- Gaming devices
- Wearable devices, including smartwatches or smart glasses, unless the capability to provide messaging or transmit other data communications has been disabled

The term does not include any device that the District or a teacher has directly issued to, provided for, or required a student to possess and use for educational purposes.

"School time" means the time students spend on a school campus during the regular school day, beginning with the designated arrival time for students through the designated dismissal time for students, including instructional time, recess, lunch, and passing periods. "School time" does not include a before-school or after-school activity or a student's presence at an off-campus learning opportunity.¹

General Prohibition: Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, students shall not use wireless communication devices during school time unless an exception described in this policy applies.

Students may possess wireless communication devices while at school but must store them in accordance with District procedures during school time.

¹A school district may exclude a high school student's lunch and passing periods from the definition of school time. High school districts should remove recess from the school time definition.

Exceptions to General Prohibition: Students must be permitted to use a wireless communication device during school time under any of the following circumstances:

1. A licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner determines that the possession or use of a wireless communication device is necessary for the management of the student's health care and the student uses the wireless communication device only as prescribed by the licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.
2. A wireless communication device is required to fulfill an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a plan developed under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the student's health care provider's medical orders, or another written accommodation plan.
3. School personnel determine that the use of the wireless communication device is necessary for students who are English learners, as defined in Section 14C-2 of the Illinois School Code ([105 ILCS 5/14C-2](#)), to access learning materials, translation services, or instructional supports.
4. School personnel determine, on a case-by-case basis, that the wireless communication device is necessary for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and well-being of a family member.
5. Possession or use is required by any applicable state or federal law.
6. There is an emergency and use of wireless communication devices is authorized by the District's emergency crisis and response plan, protocols, or procedures.*
7. School personnel have authorized a student to use a wireless communication device for educational purposes.*

**These exceptions are optional. All other exceptions must be honored through the policy.*

Device Storage During School Time: To minimize distractions and support learning, students shall store wireless communication devices during school time in accordance with procedures established by each school building. Procedures shall be developmentally appropriate, reflect the needs of the students served and building-level differences, and be implemented in a manner that promotes consistency across the District.

Storage methods may include, but are not limited to:

- Student lockers
- Backpacks or personal bags
- Classroom storage systems
- Secured pouches
- Other District-approved storage solutions

Students are responsible for complying with storage requirements established by their school.

Enforcement and Administrative Response: The District shall implement this policy consistently across schools while recognizing differences in student age, developmental level, disability-related needs, and individual circumstances.

All administrative responses should be implemented in a trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate manner and should focus on restoring compliance rather than punishment.

Administrative responses shall be consistent with the student handbook and may include:

- Verbal reminder or redirection
- Conference with the student
- Temporary confiscation for the remainder of a class period or school day
- Parent/guardian notification. If a school requires a parent or guardian to retrieve a wireless communication device at the school building following repeated or significant violations, the school shall provide an alternative process for cases in which the parent or guardian is unable to appear in person. Alternative processes may include, but are not limited to:
 - Release of the device directly to the student at the end of the school day following parent or guardian communication
 - Designation of another authorized adult by the parent or guardian
 - Other reasonable procedures established by the school
- Student reflection, problem-solving conference, or restorative intervention
- Additional supports as determined by school administration

In accordance with state law, this policy shall not be enforced through:

- Fees
- Fines
- Suspensions
- Expulsions
- Deployment of a School Resource Officer (SRO)
- Involvement of local law enforcement solely for policy violations

Suspensions or expulsions must not be used when the sole basis for the disciplinary action is a student's access to or use of a wireless communication device in violation of this policy.

This prohibition does not apply when a wireless communication device is used as part of another act of gross disobedience, misconduct, criminal behavior, bullying, harassment, threats, cheating, or other conduct that independently violates Board policy, the student code of conduct, or applicable law.

Limitation of Liability: Consistent with applicable law, the Board of Education and District employees shall not be liable for damage to a wireless communication device when the device is stored in good faith and in accordance with this policy and District procedures.

This limitation of liability does not apply when damage results from willful or wanton conduct by school personnel.

Publication: The district shall provide this policy annually to students, parents, guardians and school personnel, including newly hired personnel and substitute teachers. Providing a hyperlink to the policy annually satisfies this requirement. This policy and related administrative procedures, including responses to violations, shall be published:

- In the Board policy manual
- In the Student Handbook, if one exists, including any applicable responses to violations of this policy
- On the appropriate District webpage
- Via other communication methods as determined by the Superintendent or designee, ensuring that it is provided annually to parents, guardians, and school personnel, including new employees and substitute teachers when hired

Policy Review: At least once every three years, the Board reviews and makes any necessary and appropriate updates to this policy. In conducting the review, the Board will gather and consider input from the teachers' local collective bargaining agent, if any; administrators; and parents/guardians and consider any available data on the enforcement of this policy. The Board may utilize the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee established under Section 10-20.14 of the School Code ([105 ILCS 5/10-20.14](#)) to accomplish this policy review.

SAMPLE TEMPLATE

School boards can utilize this sample template to customize a wireless communication device policy that best meets their local context.

I. PURPOSE

The Board establishes expectations regarding student possession and use of wireless communication devices during school time.

This policy shall be implemented in a manner that is:

- Developmentally appropriate
- Trauma-informed
- Uniformly enforced
- Equitable and supportive of student success

II. DEFINITIONS

Wireless communication device means any portable electronic device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties. This includes, but is not limited to, cellular telephones, smartphones, tablet computers, laptop computers, gaming devices, wearable devices, and other devices capable of voice, text, data, internet, video, or image communication.

School Time: _____

Districts should clearly specify whether school time includes:

- ☐ Entire school day
- ☐ Entire school day except lunch and passing periods (applicable for high school students only)
- ☐ Other district-defined parameters beyond “school time” definition in statute

III. PROHIBITION ON USE DURING SCHOOL TIME

Students shall not use wireless communication devices during school time unless specifically permitted under this policy.

Wireless communication devices must remain:

- ☐ Powered off
- ☐ Silenced
- ☐ Stored out of sight
- ☐ Other: _____

IV. DEVICE STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

Storage procedures should ensure that devices are secure and appropriate for the age and grade level served.

School Storage Method(s)

- ☐ Student locker
- ☐ Student backpack
- ☐ Classroom phone holder
- ☐ Locked storage pouch
- ☐ School office
- ☐ Other: _____

Building-Specific Procedures

The Superintendent or designee may establish building-level procedures regarding:

- Storage locations
- Collection procedures
- Retrieval procedures
- Security practices

V. REQUIRED EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY

- A. Medical need
- B. IEP, Section 504, medical orders, or other accommodation plan
- C. English learner supports
- D. Student caregiver exception
- E. Other state or federal law requirements

VI. OPTIONAL EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY

- A. Lunch and passing periods (optional for high school students only): Permitted? _____
- B. Educational purposes authorized by school personnel: Permitted? _____
- C. Emergency situations: Permitted? _____

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE TO VIOLATIONS

Responses shall be educational, trauma-informed, and developmentally appropriate.

First Violation: _____

Repeated Violations: _____

VIII. PARENT/GUARDIAN RETRIEVAL ALTERNATIVE

Alternative process if parent/guardian cannot appear in person: _____

IX. PROHIBITED ENFORCEMENT METHODS

No fees, fines, suspensions, expulsions, SRO deployment, or law enforcement involvement solely for policy violations.

X. UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT

District staff shall enforce this policy uniformly across schools and classrooms.

XI. STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Teachers' local collective bargaining agent, if any; administrators; parents/guardians; other? Student input is encouraged.

XII. POLICY REVIEW

Reviewed at least once every _____ years (no less frequently than once every three years). The review process must include stakeholder input and any available data regarding policy implementation and enforcement.

XIII. PUBLICATION

Published:

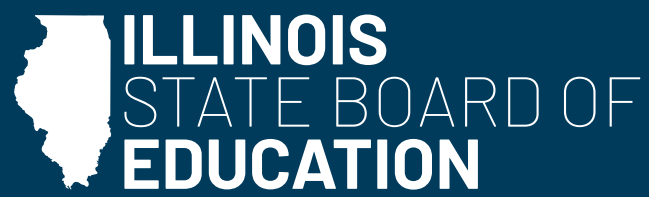
- In the Board policy manual
- In the Student Handbook, if one exists, including any applicable responses to violations of this policy
- On the appropriate District webpage
- Via other communication methods as determined by the Superintendent or designee, ensuring that it is provided annually to parents, guardians, and school personnel, including new employees and substitute teachers when hired

XIV. LIABILITY

District personnel are not liable for damage to devices stored in good faith under policy procedures, except for willful or wanton conduct.

IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Defines “wireless communication device policy” in alignment with statute
- ☐ Prohibits use during “school time” as term is defined in statute and the policy
- ☐ Includes required exceptions
- ☐ Includes storage requirements
- ☐ States the importance of uniform enforcement of the policy in each school and the handling of implementation in a trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate manner
- ☐ Includes enforcement guidance
- ☐ Includes parent retrieval alternative
- ☐ Specifies prohibited disciplinary measures in accordance with statute
- ☐ Requires publication and review on a regular cadence in accordance with statute



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