

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE POLICY

Generally, no student may use a wireless communication device during instructional time, pursuant to Indiana law.

“Wireless communication device” means any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, including a cellular telephone, tablet computer, laptop computer, or gaming device.

“Instructional time” means time in which students are participating in an approved course, a curriculum, or an educationally related activity under the direction of a teacher, including a reasonable amount of passing time between classes. Instructional time does not include lunch or recess.

A student is permitted to use a wireless communication device during instructional time only in the following circumstances:

1) As specifically permitted by a teacher for education purposes. Such permission may be given for each episode of use or as an ongoing grant of permission for regularly occurring use.

2) In the event of an emergency. An emergency for this purpose includes the use of a wireless communication device during instructional time to make an otherwise lawful alert or call for assistance in response to a condition or situation causing an immediate risk to health, life, or property. It does not include the use of a wireless communication device in an unlawful act, nor does it include the use of a wireless communication device in a manner that impairs, obstructs, or disrupts emergency response or assistance by the Corporation, health professionals, government officials or other authorized persons.

3) To manage a student’s health care. Management of health care for this purpose includes action that cannot be reasonably conducted during noninstructional time facilitating the maintenance, diagnosis, or treatment an individual’s physical or mental condition. The Corporation may require parent permission for unemancipated minors and medical or other documentation of the necessity of the use to determine whether such use fits into this exception.

4) As permitted by the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Violation of this policy may result in forfeiture of technological privileges and other discipline as provided in the Student Code of Conduct.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of wireless communication devices brought onto Corporation property. The Corporation assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, damage to, misuse, or unauthorized use of a wireless communication device brought onto its property.

This Policy should be followed in tandem with Policy A300 Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Use Policy.

Commented [A1]: I.C. 20-26-5-40.7 requires a “Wireless Communication Device Policy” that must be posted on the school’s website so by far the most efficient approach is to make this a standalone policy so folks can see this complies with statute.

Commented [A2]: This is the definition in SEA185 (new I.C. 20-26-5-40.7).

Commented [A3]: Language in brackets is optional.

Commented [A4]: This is not in the statute. It is optional language in response to administrative concerns that requiring repeated permission may be cumbersome.

Commented [A5]: This definition is not in the statute. Thus there is some legal risk. However, this language provides clarity to ensure fair and lawful application and to avoid student efforts to use exceptions as subterfuge. It is unlikely, for example, that the legislature intended to protect a student’s use of a phone to live stream a fight in a classroom.

Commented [A6]: This definition is not in the statute. Thus there is some legal risk. However, this language provides clarity to ensure fair and lawful application and to avoid student efforts to use exceptions as subterfuge.

Commented [A7]: This is required by new I.C. 20-26-5-40.7 (SEA 1985 2024).

I.C. 20-26-5-40.7

West Lafayette Community School Corporation

Adopted: [date]

Revised: [date]