

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 57(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/14/25

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES FIELDS, Josephson, Schrage, Carrick, Galvin, Mina

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to wireless telecommunications devices in public schools; and**
2 **providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 14.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Article 5. Wireless Telecommunications Devices.**

6 **Sec. 14.33.300. Wireless telecommunications device policy.** (a) The
7 department shall develop and adopt a model policy that prohibits the use of nonschool-
8 issued wireless telecommunications devices in public schools during regular school
9 hours, including lunch and passing periods. The policy must allow exceptions for
10 students to use a wireless telecommunications device for medical purposes, in the
11 event of an emergency, or when a teacher or administrator of the school grants
12 permission to a student to use a wireless telecommunications device for educational
13 purposes.

14 (b) Each school district shall adopt a policy that prohibits students from

1 possessing or using a nonschool-issued wireless telecommunications device during
2 regular school hours, including lunch and passing periods. Each school district shall
3 share this policy with parents or guardians, students, volunteers, and school
4 employees. The policy must allow exceptions for students to use a wireless
5 telecommunications device for medical purposes, in the event of an emergency, or
6 when a teacher or administrator of the school grants permission to a student to use a
7 wireless telecommunications device for educational purposes. A school district may
8 either develop and adopt its own policy or adopt the model policy developed under (a)
9 of this section.

10 (c) This section does not authorize a person to monitor, collect, or access
11 information related to a student's use of a wireless telecommunications device.

12 (d) In this section, "wireless telecommunications device" means any portable
13 wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data
14 communication between two or more parties.

15 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
16 read:

17 **REPORTS.** (a) Not later than June 30, 2026, a school district shall report to
18 Department of Education and Early Development describing the policy the school district
19 adopted under AS 14.33.300(b) and the effect of the policy on student academic achievement
20 and behavior in the school district.

21 (b) Not later than July 31, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Development
22 shall prepare a report that describes, for each school district, the implementation process of
23 policies adopted under AS 14.33.300(b) and the outcomes of prohibiting the use of
24 nonschool-issued wireless telecommunications devices, including the effect on student
25 academic achievement and behavior. The Department of Education and Early Development
26 shall make the report available to the public, submit the report to the senate secretary and the
27 chief clerk of the house of representatives, and notify the legislature that the report is
28 available.

29 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2025.