



IMPORTANT UPDATE

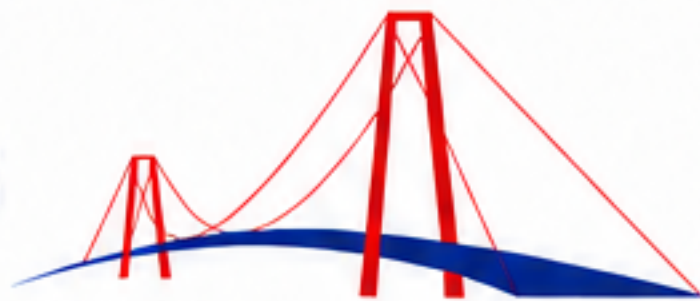


JULY 2026



NEW STATE LAW REGARDING CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL DEVICES

To support a distraction-free learning environment, the Indiana General Assembly has passed Senate Bill 78, which requires all K-12 schools to implement a “bell to bell” ban on personal wireless devices.



Greater Clark County Schools
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WHAT IS CHANGING?



Full Day Restriction K-12: Previously, high school students could use devices, wear headphones, or ear buds during lunch or between classes. Starting **July 1, 2026**, devices must be powered off and inaccessible for the **entire school day**. Teachers do not have the authority to provide exceptions.



Expanded Device List: The ban includes cell phones, smartwatches, headphones, earbuds, tablets, personal laptops, smart glasses, and gaming devices. In short, any personal smart electronic device that is not issued by the school is prohibited.



Exceptions: Access will still be granted for students with documented medical needs or requirements explicitly stated in an IEP or 504 plan.

COMPARISON OF POLICY CHANGES

Feature	Previous Practice	New Law (SB 78) Effective 7/1/26
 Restricted Access for Cell Phones	Instructional time only	Full school day (bell-to-bell)
 Lunch/Passing Period Access	Permitted at the High School level	Explicitly included in the ban for all students K-12
 Smartwatches/Earbuds, Headphones etc.	Often overlooked, or permitted to be in student possession	Strictly prohibited
 Storage	Stored in student locker/backpack, but often overlooked if in student possession and turned off	Inaccessible-Must be stored in a secured classroom location or the student's locker
 Personal Computers and Devices	Not allowed in school	Not allowed in school

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN OUR SCHOOLS?



Storage: To meet this requirement, all students will be expected to store their cell phone(s)/ personal device(s) in a locker or other teacher identified secured classroom location for the duration of the school day.



Enforcement: Students who do not comply with this law will be subject to school discipline procedures as outlined in the student handbook.

EXCEPTIONS AND ACADEMIC NEEDS



Documented Needs: Access will still be granted for students with documented medical needs or requirements explicitly stated in an IEP or 504 plan.



Curricular Resources: We are currently working with teachers to identify school-issued resources for classes that previously utilized personal devices, such as journalism, yearbook and music.



Thank you for your continued partnership and support in fostering a focused learning environment for our students.