

**SENATE BILL NO. 2354**

Introduced by

Senators Axtman, Cleary, Sickler, Thomas

Representatives Bosch, O'Brien

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to school district wireless communication device policies.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Wireless communication device policy.**

- 7 1. As used in this section, "wireless communication device" means a portable wireless  
8 device with the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication  
9 between two or more parties, including a cell phone, tablet computer, laptop computer,  
10 or gaming device.
- 11 2. Before January 1, 2027, a school district in coordination with the board of the school  
12 district shall adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that:
- 13 a. Except as provided in subdivisions b and c and subsection 3, minimizes or  
14 prohibits a student from using a wireless communication device during school  
15 hours;
- 16 b. Authorizes a teacher to allow a student to use a wireless communication device  
17 for educational purposes during instructional time;
- 18 c. Permits a student to use a wireless communication device to manage the  
19 student's health care, as determined by a licensed physician;
- 20 d. Is consistent across grade levels; and
- 21 e. Promotes evidence-based smartphone practices to support student learning and  
22 well-being.
- 23 3. The policy under subsection 2 may not prohibit a student from using a wireless  
24 communication device during school hours if the use of the wireless communication

- 1           device is included in the student's individualized education program or plan developed  
2           under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 [29 U.S.C. 794].  
3       4. A school district shall:  
4           a. Solicit input from stakeholders to develop the policy under subsection 2 to ensure  
5           the policy is responsive to the unique needs and desires of students, parents,  
6           and educators in the community.  
7           b. Publish on its website the wireless communication device policy.  
8           c. Annually review and update policies based on emerging research and data  
9           regarding wireless communication device use in schools.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -

There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$300,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of providing grants to school districts to obtain supplies for defraying the cost of implementing wireless communication device policies. Each district may receive a maximum grant amount of \$20,000 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027