

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 949](#)

TITLE: Wireless Communications Devices on School Grounds

SPONSOR(S): Busatta

COMPANION BILL: None

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Education Administration](#)



[Education & Employment](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill prohibits students from using wireless communication devices during the school day, rather than just during instruction time, and eliminates the exception for the use of such devices when expressly directed by a teacher for educational purposes. The bill also removes the requirement for teachers to designate areas for use of a wireless communication device.

The bill requires each district school board to adopt rules designating locations within school buildings where students may use their devices with a school administrator's permission.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill prohibits students from using [wireless communication devices](#) during the school day, rather than just during instructional time, and eliminates the exception for use of such devices when expressly directed by a teacher for educational purposes. The bill also removes the requirement for teachers to designate areas for use of a wireless communication device. (Sections [1](#) and [2](#)).

The bill adds a requirement for each district school board to adopt rules governing the use of wireless communication devices by students, including the designation of specific locations within school buildings where students may use their devices with the express permission of a school administrator. (Section [2](#)).

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2025. (Section [3](#)).

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Wireless Communications Device Use in Florida Public Schools](#)

Under Florida law, as part of a district school board's responsibility for control of students, a board must adopt rules for the control, attendance, discipline, in-school suspension, suspension, and expulsion of students and decide all cases recommended for expulsion and maintain a code of student conduct.¹ The law provides that a student may

¹ S. [1003.02\(1\)\(c\), F.S.](#) See also [s. 1006.07, F.S.](#)

possess a wireless communications device while on school property or in attendance at a school function,² however, a district school board has the authority to adopt rules governing the use of the device by a student while on school property or in attendance at a school function within the district's code of student conduct.³

In 2023, the Legislature prohibited students from using wireless communications devices at school during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Under the law and within the framework of a district school board's code of student conduct, teachers and other instructional personnel have the authority to undertake specific actions to manage student behavior to ensure the safety of all students and provide the opportunity to learn in an orderly and disciplined classroom.⁴ Such actions include establishing classroom rules of conduct, including designating an area for wireless communications devices during instructional time.⁵

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2023	CS/HB 379	Yeager	Burgess	Became law on May 9, 2023 and implementation began on July 1, 2023.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Education Administration Subcommittee			Sleap	Dixon
Education & Employment Committee				

² S. [1006.07\(2\)\(f\), F.S.](#)

³ *Id.*

⁴ S. [1003.32\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁵ S. [1003.32\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#)