

TPS Wireless Communication Policy

Indiana Bell-to-Bell Law (SEA 78) In accordance with Indiana's Bell-to-Bell Law (Senate Enrolled Act 78), effective July 1, 2026, scholars are prohibited from using personal wireless communication devices during the school day. Scholars must keep devices powered off and inaccessible from the first morning bell until the final dismissal bell.

Restricted Devices:

- This policy applies to cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, wireless earbuds, headphones, tablets, gaming devices, and other personal electronic communication devices.

Policy Details

1. *Prohibited Devices:*
 - a. Scholars are prohibited from using or possessing cellphones, gaming devices, or any wireless devices during the school day, including during instructional, transition, and recreational periods.
2. *Storage and Use:*
 - a. During class time, all electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight, such as in lockers, backpacks, or designated storage areas.
 - b. Devices should not be visible or accessible during the instructional school day unless expressly permitted by a teacher.
3. *Enforcement:*
 - a. Administration, teachers, and staff are responsible for enforcing this policy.
 - b. Devices found in use without authorization will be confiscated and returned only to a parent or guardian.
 - c. Persistent violations may result in progressive disciplinary actions.
4. *Educational Impact:*
 - a. The policy aims to reduce distractions, enhance scholar focus, and foster in-person interaction among scholars.
 - b. It supports a positive learning environment where technology use is purposeful and aligned with educational goals.
5. *Implementation:*
 - a. The policy will be implemented starting August 3, 2026, and during the first week of school, teachers will educate scholars on the policy expectations.
 - b. The policy will be communicated to parents/guardians through the scholar handbook, a letter sent home detailing the policy, and various communication channels.
6. *Review and Updates:*
 - a. The policy will be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with educational objectives and compliance with state regulations.
7. *Family Support and Cooperation*
 - a. Family cooperation and partnership are crucial to ensuring the success of this policy. We can create a cohesive learning environment that promotes scholar engagement and academic achievement by working together. We encourage parents/guardians to support and reinforce the school's efforts to minimize distractions and maximize scholar

focus during school hours. Together, we can foster a positive and enriching educational experience for all scholars at The PATH School.

8. Resources:

- a.** The PATH School will provide the necessary resources and support to implement and enforce this policy effectively.
- b.** Staff training on policy implementation and scholar engagement strategies will be conducted regularly.

9. Exceptions:

- a.** Devices may be used in emergencies or to manage health care needs (with permission from administration).
- b.** Scholars with disabilities or as part of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) may use technology as necessary, provided that formal documentation from a physician is provided.

10. Conclusion:

- a.** By adhering to this policy, The PATH School aims to create a focused and supportive learning environment where scholars can thrive academically and socially.
- b.** This policy is effective beginning August 3, 2026, and will be enforced uniformly across all grades and classrooms.