

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4005

To amend title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish the UNPLUGGED Schools Grant Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN (for himself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish the UNPLUGGED Schools Grant Program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Utilize No Phones in
5 Learning to Unleash Growth in Grades and Educate Dis-
6 traction-free Schools Grant Act of 2025” or the
7 “UNPLUGGED Schools Grant Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. UNPLUGGED SCHOOLS GRANTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Elementary and
3 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et
4 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“PART G—UNPLUGGED SCHOOLS GRANTS.**

6 **“SEC. 4701. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

7 “The Secretary shall establish a grant program to be
8 known as the ‘Utilize No Phones in Learning to Unleash
9 Growth in Grades and Educate Distraction-free Schools
10 Grant Program’ or the ‘UNPLUGGED Schools Grant
11 Program’ to award grants to State educational agencies
12 to support public schools with implementing a personal
13 electronic device policy described in section 4702(a).

14 **“SEC. 4702. ELIGIBILITY.**

15 “(a) PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY RE-
16 QUIRED.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this part,
17 a State educational agency shall be required to have in
18 effect a policy, designed in coordination with each local
19 educational agency served by the State educational agency
20 and in consultation with educators, parents, and students,
21 that applies to each public school served by each such local
22 educational agency that prohibits student possession or
23 use of personal electronic devices in public schools during
24 school hours. Such policy may permit exceptions—

25 “(1) for students with health conditions that re-
26 quire the use of a mobile phone or other personal

1 electronic device as part of a treatment or moni-
2 toring plan, as certified by a licensed healthcare pro-
3 vider;

4 “(2) for students with disabilities or special
5 needs for whom access to a mobile phone or other
6 personal electronic device is—

7 “(A) documented as necessary in an indi-
8 vidualized education program; or

9 “(B) included as part of services or accom-
10 modations provided to the student pursuant to
11 section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
12 (29 U.S.C. 794) (commonly referred to as a
13 ‘Section 504 plan’);

14 “(3) on an individualized basis, for students—

15 “(A) who are English learners;

16 “(B) who have a demonstrated need for a
17 personal electronic device to facilitate instruc-
18 tion; and

19 “(C) acquire documentation in support of
20 subparagraph (A) and (B) in accordance with
21 procedures established by the State educational
22 agency; and

23 “(4) for additional students as determined ap-
24 propriate by State educational agencies.

1 “(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this part
2 shall be construed as preempting or otherwise preventing
3 a State, State educational agency, local educational agen-
4 cy, or public school from enacting or enforcing policies or
5 procedures regarding student possession or use of personal
6 electronic devices during school hours, on school grounds,
7 or during school activities that is more restrictive than a
8 personal electronic device policy described in subsection
9 (a).

10 **“SEC. 4703. APPLICATION.**

11 “To be eligible to receive a grant under this part, a
12 State educational agency shall submit to the Secretary an
13 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
14 such information as the Secretary may require, includ-
15 ing—

16 “(1) a certification that the State educational
17 agency has in effect a personal electronic device pol-
18 icy that satisfies the requirements described in sec-
19 tion 4702(a); and

20 “(2) a certification that the State educational
21 agency permits public schools and local educational
22 agencies served by the State educational agency to
23 develop policies and procedures that enable—

24 “(A) parents to notify students through
25 public school personnel about forgotten items,

1 changes in pick-up times, and other common
2 issues; and

3 “(B) public school personnel to commu-
4 nicate with parents regarding time-sensitive
5 matters.

6 **“SEC. 4704. USE OF FUNDS.**

7 “A State educational agency that receives a grant
8 under this part shall use such grant to acquire secure stor-
9 age methods for use at public schools for safely storing
10 personal electronic devices in accordance with a personal
11 electronic device policy described in section 4702(a).

12 **“SEC. 4705. ALLOCATIONS TO STATE EDUCATIONAL AGEN-**
13 **CIES.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From the total amount appro-
15 priated under section 4707 for a fiscal year, the Secretary
16 shall allot to each State educational agency that has an
17 approved application for a grant under this part an
18 amount that bears the same relationship to the remainder
19 as the amount that the State of such State educational
20 agency received under subpart 2 of part A of title I for
21 the preceding fiscal year bears to the amount all States
22 received under that subpart for the preceding fiscal year.

23 “(b) SMALL STATE MINIMUM.—No State educational
24 agency receiving an allotment under this paragraph shall

1 receive less than one-half of 1 percent of the total amount
2 allotted under this paragraph.

3 “(c) REALLOTMENT OF UNUSED FUNDS.—If a State
4 educational agency does not receive an allotment under
5 this part for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate the
6 amount of the allotment that such State educational agency
7 would have received to the remaining State educational
8 agencies in accordance with this part.

9 **“SEC. 4706. DEFINITIONS.**

10 “In this part:

11 “(1) INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM.—
12 The term ‘individualized education program’ has the
13 meaning given such term in section 602(14) of the
14 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20
15 U.S.C. 1401(14)).

16 “(2) MOBILE PHONE.—The term ‘mobile phone’
17 means any handheld communication device with cellular,
18 Wi-Fi, or Bluetooth capability, including
19 smartphones and similar devices.

20 “(3) PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
22 subparagraph (B), the term ‘personal electronic
23 device’, when used with respect to a device possessed or used by a student, includes a mobile
24 phone, smartwatch, laptop, tablet, and other
25

1 handheld or wearable device with communica-
2 tion, internet, or multimedia capabilities.

3 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The term ‘personal
4 electronic device’ does not include a laptop or
5 tablet that—

6 “(i) a student is authorized by the
7 school of the student to use during school
8 hours;

9 “(ii) is used by such student only for
10 instructional purposes; and

11 “(iii) is restricted from accessing so-
12 cial media platforms, personal email, per-
13 sonal messaging applications, texting serv-
14 ices, and other non-academic applications
15 during school hours.

16 “(4) PUBLIC SCHOOL.—The term ‘public
17 school’ means—

18 “(A) a public elementary school; and

19 “(B) a public secondary school.

20 “(5) SCHOOL HOURS.—The term ‘school hours’
21 means the period from the start of the instructional
22 day (as defined by the State educational agency)
23 until the end of the instructional day.

24 “(6) SECURE STORAGE METHODS.—The term
25 ‘secure storage methods’ means storage solutions

1 that are designed to keep personal electronic devices
 2 safely and securely stored and to prevent students
 3 from accessing such devices during school hours
 4 without permission, including—

5 “(A) lockable lockers;

6 “(B) secure lock boxes;

7 “(C) magnetic pouches or other signal-
 8 blocking storage devices; and

9 “(D) other storage solutions as determined
 10 appropriate by the State educational agency.

11 **“SEC. 4707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 “To carry out this part, there are authorized to be
 13 appropriated such sums as may be necessary.”.

14 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
 15 section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 16 of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item relating
 17 to section 4644 the following new items:

“PART G—UNPLUGGED SCHOOLS GRANTS

“Sec. 4701. Grant program authorized.

“Sec. 4702. Eligibility.

“Sec. 4703. Application.

“Sec. 4704. Use of funds.

“Sec. 4705. Allocations to State educational agencies.

“Sec. 4706. Definitions.

“Sec. 4707. Authorization of appropriations.”.

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