

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4006

To require the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity to establish policy prohibiting the use of cellular phones and other distracting devices by students in DODEA schools, 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 Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity to establish policy prohibiting the use of cellular phones and other distracting devices by students in DODEA schools, 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 “Mission Utilize No
5 Phones in Learning to Unleash Growth in Grades and

1 Educate Distraction-free Act” or the “Mission
2 UNPLUGGED Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. POLICY PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN ELEC-**
4 **TRONIC DEVICES IN DODEA SCHOOLS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish and
6 maintain a policy pursuant to which the use of covered
7 electronic devices by students in schools operated by the
8 Department of Defense Education Activity is prohibited
9 during regular school hours.

10 (b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND EXCEP-
11 TIONS.—

12 (1) REQUIREMENTS.—The policy required
13 under subsection (a)—

14 (A) shall provide administrators of indi-
15 vidual schools with a degree of flexibility to de-
16 termine the methods of enforcing the policy at
17 their school, subject to such limits as the Direc-
18 tor determines appropriate; and

19 (B) shall include procedures that enable
20 parents and children to contact each other dur-
21 ing the school day in the event of an emer-
22 gency.

23 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—The policy required under
24 subsection (a) shall include exceptions pursuant to

1 which a student may use a covered electronic de-
2 vice—

3 (A) in an emergency situation;

4 (B) on school grounds outside of regular
5 school hours, such as while awaiting transpor-
6 tation to or from school or while participating
7 in extracurricular activities;

8 (C) if the student has a medical or health
9 condition requiring use of a covered electronic
10 device as part of a treatment or monitoring
11 plan as certified by a licensed healthcare pro-
12 vider;

13 (D) if the student has a disability or spe-
14 cial needs and the use of a covered electronic
15 device is documented as necessary—

16 (i) as part of an individualized edu-
17 cation program;

18 (ii) as an accommodation under sec-
19 tion 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
20 (29 U.S.C. 794) or the Americans with
21 Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101
22 et seq.); or

23 (iii) under a similar policy or program
24 of the Department of Defense Education
25 Activity;

1 (E) if the student is an English learner
2 and requires the use of a covered electronic de-
3 vice to assist with learning or understanding
4 the English language; and

5 (F) in such other circumstances as the Di-
6 rector determines appropriate.

7 (c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the policy under
8 subsection (a), the Director shall consult with—

9 (1) the Chief Academic Officer and the District
10 Superintendents of the Department of Defense Edu-
11 cation Activity; and

12 (2) School Advisory Committees for schools op-
13 erated by the Activity.

14 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The policy required under
15 subsection (a) shall be established not later than 180 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply
17 with respect to school years beginning after the date on
18 which the policy is established.

19 **SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION AT SCHOOLS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director is authorized to pro-
21 vide support to schools operated by the Department of De-
22 fense Education Activity to assist such schools in the im-
23 plementation of the policy required under section 2. Such
24 support may include—

1 (1) the procurement of lockboxes or other
2 means for storing covered electronic devices during
3 the school day; and

4 (2) such other forms of support as the Director
5 determines appropriate.

6 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
8 \$1,207,500 for fiscal year 2026.

9 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORTS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
11 policy required under section 2 first takes effect, and on
12 an annual basis thereafter for the following four years,
13 the Director shall submit to the Committees on Armed
14 Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives
15 a report on the status of the implementation of the policy.

16 (b) ELEMENTS.—At a minimum, each report under
17 subsection (a) shall include a description of—

18 (1) how the policy has been implemented in the
19 year covered by the report;

20 (2) the cost of implementation; and

21 (3) any effects of the policy with respect to stu-
22 dent performance and mental health, teacher and
23 student retention, and other relevant outcomes.

24 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act—

1 (1) The term “covered electronic devices”
2 means—

3 (A) cellular phones, including smartphones;

4 and

5 (B) any other personal electronic devices
6 the Director determines—

7 (i) are likely to distract students dur-
8 ing the school day; and

9 (ii) are appropriate for inclusion in
10 the prohibition under section 2.

11 (2) The “Director” means the Director of the
12 Department of Defense Education Activity.

13 (3) The term “English learner” has the mean-
14 ing given that term in section 8101 of the Elemen-
15 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
16 U.S.C. 7801).

17 (4) The term “individualized education pro-
18 gram” has the meaning given that term in section
19 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education
20 Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

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