Blue River Valley Schools

Board Member Briefing and Policy Guide

Student Personal Wireless Device Guidelines

State Law Mandate
Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Legislative Authority: Indiana SEA 78

Statutory Legal Mandate: Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 78 (SEA 78)
Effective July 1, 2026, Indiana law requires all public school corporations to prohibit students from using or possessing personal wireless communication devices during school hours. This guideline establishes district compliance standards for Blue River Valley Schools.

1. Executive Summary & Context

The purpose of this briefing is to outline the operational implementation of Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 78 across Blue River Valley Schools for the 2026–2027 school year. SEA 78 mandates a statewide "bell-to-bell" policy requiring student-owned personal wireless electronic devices to remain **powered off and rendered completely inaccessible** to students throughout the school day to reduce classroom distractions, support student mental wellness, and enhance instructional focus.

- **Defining "Inaccessible":** To meet state statutory standards, devices may not be carried on a student's person (including pockets, waistbands, or hands) and must remain stowed out of reach in an assigned locker, cubby, or designated storage area from the first morning bell to the final dismissal bell.

This policy is a statewide legislative mandate enforced across all Indiana public schools and not an isolated rule originated by Blue River Valley Schools.

2. Core Policy Rules & Student Expectations

- **"Bell-to-Bell" Storage & Power:** Personal electronic devices brought to school must be turned completely **off** (not placed on silent or vibrate) and stored in the student's assigned locker or cubby for the entire school day (from the first morning arrival bell until the final dismissal bell).
- **Restricted Periods:** Device usage is strictly prohibited during all instructional blocks, passing periods, lunch times, and physical education/recreation breaks.

3. Device Scope & Allowed Exceptions

🚫 Prohibited Personal Devices	✅ Permitted Exceptions & Accommodations
• Cell Phones & Smartphones • Smartwatches & Fitness Trackers • Smart Glasses & Wearable Tech • Wireless Earbuds & Headphones • Personal iPads, Tablets & e-Readers • Personal Laptops & Chromebooks • Handheld Gaming Devices	• **School-Issued Tech:** Laptops/Chromebooks used under direct teacher supervision for educational tasks. • **IEP / 504 Accommodations:** Documented medical or educational devices required by a formal IEP or Section 504 Plan. • **School Bus Travel:** Device usage permitted on school buses *before* morning drop-off and *after* afternoon dismissal.

4. Parent Communication & Daily Contact Protocols

We know how important it is to stay in touch with your children. To help our students stay focused on learning while keeping families seamlessly connected, Blue River Valley Schools provides simple, direct ways for parents and students to reach each other during the school day:

Main Office Direct Contact Lines:
• **BRV Elementary School Office:** (765) 836-4851
• **BRV Jr./Sr. High School Office:** (765) 836-4811

- **Incoming Parent Messages:** Parents needing to contact a student for urgent matters should call the main office. Office personnel will promptly deliver messages or call the student to the office to converse with their parent.
- **Student-Initiated Contact:** Students needing to reach parents during the school day may request permission from staff to utilize dedicated landlines located in the main office or guidance department.