

Dear Pioneer Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year!

As we prepare to welcome our students back to the classroom, we want to provide clear information regarding a couple changes coming during the 2026-2027 school year due to new legislation:

1. Student fees and curricular materials under Indiana law
2. Personal Communication Devices under Indiana law

Student Fees & Curricular Materials Under Indiana Law

Under **Indiana law (HEA 1008 / Senate Bill 395)**, public schools are required to provide all necessary curricular materials at no cost to families. This means you will **not** be charged for:

- Required textbooks and consumable workbooks
- School-issued instructional devices (Chromebooks & iPads) used as part of classroom learning

While the state now covers standard curricular materials, schools are permitted to assess fees for certain supplemental, optional, or non-curricular items that are not fully funded by the state, including:

- Consumable materials
- Extracurricular activities
- Non-curricular technology

In addition, **PRSC will assess a \$50.00 Supplemental Materials Fee for all students beginning after October 1, 2026.** This fee will be assessed equally for every student enrolled in PRSC and is **not based on household income or family size.**

The following grade-level breakdown outlines the supplemental materials and services covered by this fee for your child's specific grade:

- **Grades K-6:** Non-curricular Classroom Instructional Supplies (examples Art, PE, Paper) = \$25.00 & Non-curricular Technology Supplies = \$25.00
- **Grades 7-12:** Non-curricular Classroom Instructional Supplies (examples labs, projects, paper) = \$25.00 & Non-curricular Technology Supplies = \$25.00

We understand that this represents a change from previous years and wanted to share this information well in advance so families can plan accordingly. After October 1, 2026, you will receive an official fee assessment by mail and/or email. That notice will include your **students'** fee along with detailed payment instructions.

This fee will be assessed by all Cass County school corporations. We appreciate your understanding and continued partnership as we work to provide every student with high-quality educational experience.

Superintendent: Dr. Charles Grable



Pioneer Regional School Corporation

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Personal Communication Devices Under Indiana Law

Under Indiana law (SEA 78) and School Board Policy 5136 all personal communication devices are prohibited from student use during the school day.

Personal communication devices (PCDs) are defined as any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two (2) or more parties, including computers, laptops, tablets, e-readers, cellular or mobile telephones, smartphones, smartwatches (portable, wearable computer that resembles a wristwatch), smart glasses (eyewear equipped with computer technology), gaming devices, and/or other web-enabled devices of any type.

By Indiana law and Board Policy, these personal communication devices, including cell phones and smart watches, **must be powered off and inaccessible to students all day during the school day.** What does that mean at PRSC? The Cass County Schools all adopted the same storage policy – these devices may be brought to school. However, they must be powered off and stored in the student's locker all day long. If the student does not have a locker (lower elementary students), they must stay in their bookbag. By law, students may no longer access them during passing periods and lunch. Students may not access them during field trips and other school activities during the school day.

Students may utilize them on the school bus prior to and after school with the driver's permission. Students may utilize them on school grounds before and after school hours at the discretion of the coach, sponsor, advisor, or supervisor.

There are a few exceptions to the law:

- It is written into the student's IEP or 504 plan for specific reasons
- The student has a documented medical condition requiring the use of the device (i.e.: monitor blood sugar)
- Language translation (prioritizing school-managed devices)
- Emergency use (authorized by the superintendent or designee at appropriate times; such as a school evacuation)

The student handbook will spell out the disciplinary consequences for students violating this law and policy. Any time a student is caught with a device, the parent will have to come to the school to get the device from an administrator. Further disciplinary action will also occur with each incident, up to and including expulsion. For consistency, **all Cass County schools are utilizing the same policy and practices.**

If a parent needs to reach their child during the day or get a message to their child, they should call the front office of the school. Each classroom has a phone. The front office will be able to relay that message to your child. In an emergency, your child can be called down to the office to talk to you on the phone.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a successful 2026–2027 school year!

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Grable,
Superintendent