

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-8

OFFERED BY MR. VINDMAN OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following
new section:

1 **SEC. 5 ____ . POLICY PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN**
2 **ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN DODEA SCHOOLS.**

3 (a) POLICY REQUIRED.—

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

9 (2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND EXCEP-
10 TIONS.—

11 (A) REQUIREMENTS.—The policy required
12 under paragraph (1)—

13 (i) shall provide administrators of in-
14 dividual schools with a degree of flexibility
15 to determine the methods of enforcing the
16 policy at their school, subject to such limits
17 as the Director determines appropriate;
18 and

1 (ii) shall include procedures that en-
2 able parents and children to contact each
3 other during the school day in the event of
4 an emergency.

5 (B) EXCEPTIONS.—The policy required
6 under paragraph (1) shall include exceptions
7 pursuant to which a student may use a covered
8 electronic device—

9 (i) in an emergency situation;

10 (ii) on school grounds outside of reg-
11 ular school hours, such as while awaiting
12 transportation to or from school or while
13 participating in extracurricular activities;

14 (iii) if the student has a medical or
15 health condition requiring use of a covered
16 electronic device as part of a treatment or
17 monitoring plan as certified by a licensed
18 healthcare provider;

19 (iv) if the student has a disability or
20 special needs and the use of a covered elec-
21 tronic device is documented as necessary—

22 (I) as part of an individualized
23 education program;

24 (II) as an accommodation under
25 section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

1 of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) or the Amer-
2 icans with Disabilities Act of 1990
3 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.); or

4 (III) under a similar policy or
5 program of the Department of De-
6 fense Education Activity;

7 (v) if the student is an English learn-
8 er and requires the use of a covered elec-
9 tronic device to assist with learning or un-
10 derstanding the English language; and

11 (vi) in such other circumstances as
12 the Director determines appropriate.

13 (3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the policy
14 under paragraph (1), the Director shall consult
15 with—

16 (A) the Chief Academic Officer and the
17 District Superintendents of the Department of
18 Defense Education Activity; and

19 (B) School Advisory Committees for
20 schools operated by the Activity.

21 (4) IMPLEMENTATION.—The policy required
22 under paragraph (1) shall be established not later
23 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
24 this Act and shall apply with respect to school years

1 beginning after the date on which the policy is estab-
2 lished.

3 (b) SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION AT SCHOOLS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director is authorized
5 to provide support to schools operated by the De-
6 partment of Defense Education Activity to assist
7 such schools in the implementation of the policy re-
8 quired under subsection (a). Such support may in-
9 clude—

10 (A) the procurement of lockboxes or other
11 means for storing covered electronic devices
12 during the school day; and

13 (B) such other forms of support as the Di-
14 rector determines appropriate.

15 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

16 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
17 this subsection \$1,207,500 for fiscal year 2026.

18 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
20 after the policy required under subsection (a) first
21 takes effect, and on an annual basis thereafter for
22 the following four years, the Director shall submit to
23 the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate
24 and the House of Representatives a report on the
25 status of the implementation of the policy.

1 (2) ELEMENTS.—At a minimum, each report
2 under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

3 (A) how the policy has been implemented
4 in the year covered by the report;

5 (B) the cost of implementation; and

6 (C) any effects of the policy with respect to
7 student performance and mental health, teacher
8 and student retention, and other relevant out-
9 comes.

10 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

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

13 (A) cellular phones, including smartphones;
14 and

15 (B) any other personal electronic devices
16 the Director determines—

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

19 (ii) are appropriate for inclusion in
20 the prohibition under subsection (a).

21 (2) The “Director” means the Director of the
22 Department of Defense Education Activity.

23 (3) The term “English learner” has the mean-
24 ing given that term in section 8101 of the Elemen-

1 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
2 U.S.C. 7801).

3 (4) The term “individualized education pro-
4 gram” has the meaning given that term in section
5 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education
6 Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

