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REDWOOD CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent Meeting

Mobile Smart phones and
Smart Watches

May 20, 2025



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Our Agenda Tonight

- AB 3216
- RCSD survey results
- Next steps
- Questions? Please place them in the chat

AB3216 & RCSD



As part of [Assembly Bill 3216, the Phone-Free School Act](#), the Board of Trustees will be evaluating the [DRAFT RCSD Cell Phone Usage Regulations](#), which will take effect July 1, 2025. (Pilot program)

We have created a survey to gather information from parents, educators, and students in grades 3-8. The data from the surveys will be shared with the Board of Trustees to help them evaluate the RCSD regulations on the use of student phones and smartwatches with cellular service at school.



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RCSD Survey Results



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Three Surveys

**Parent/Guardians
(TK-8)**

More than
1,900 answers

3-8 Students

More than
2,500 answers

**Staff
(all)**

More than 450
answers

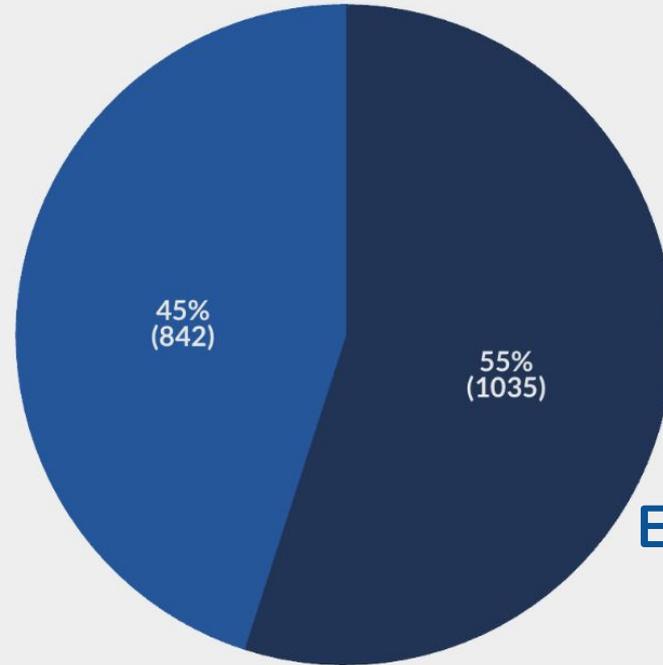


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The Parent Survey

Spanish



English

The Parent Survey



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What school(s) does your child(ren) attend?



1809

Responses

%		Answer <i>(Multiple select)</i>
9%	(170)	Adelante Selby
10%	(175)	Clifford
4%	(69)	Garfield
6%	(112)	Henry Ford
11%	(195)	Hoover
20%	(354)	Kennedy
9%	(163)	MIT
16%	(296)	North Star Academy
4%	(81)	Orion Alternative
7%	(119)	Roosevelt
10%	(187)	Roy Cloud
7%	(124)	Taft



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The Parent Survey

In which grade(s) is your child(ren) enrolled?

 **1794**
Responses

%		Answer <i>(Multiple select)</i>
3%	(53)	Transitional Kindergarten (TK)
8%	(140)	Kindergarten
8%	(149)	1st Grade
9%	(154)	2nd Grade
18%	(318)	3rd Grade
18%	(315)	4th Grade
19%	(341)	5th Grade
20%	(360)	6th Grade
17%	(305)	7th Grade
19%	(335)	8th Grade



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What Parents Said

In which grade(s) is your child(ren) enrolled?

 **1794**
Responses

%		Answer (Multiple select)
3%	(53)	Transitional Kindergarten (TK)
8%	(140)	Kindergarten
8%	(149)	1st Grade
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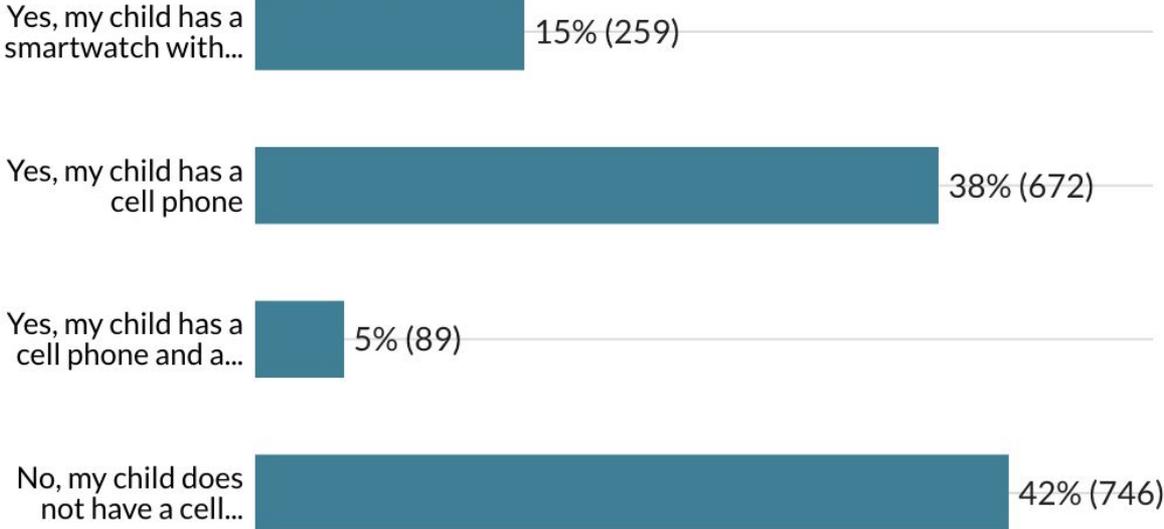


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What Parents Said

Does your child have a phone or smartwatch with cell service?



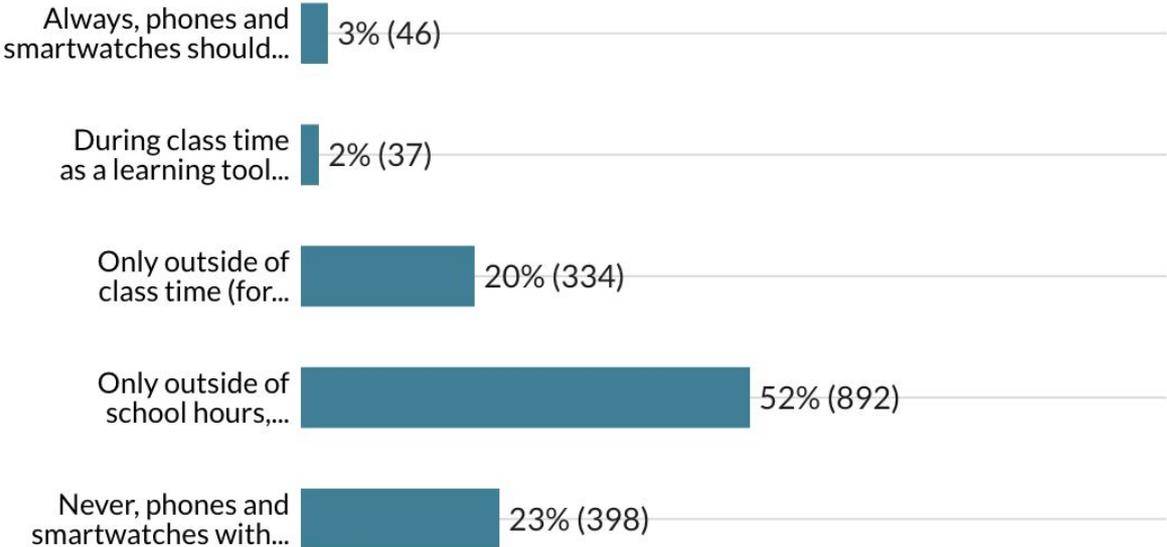


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What Parents Said

Should 3-8 students be able to use phones and smartwatches with cellular service during school?



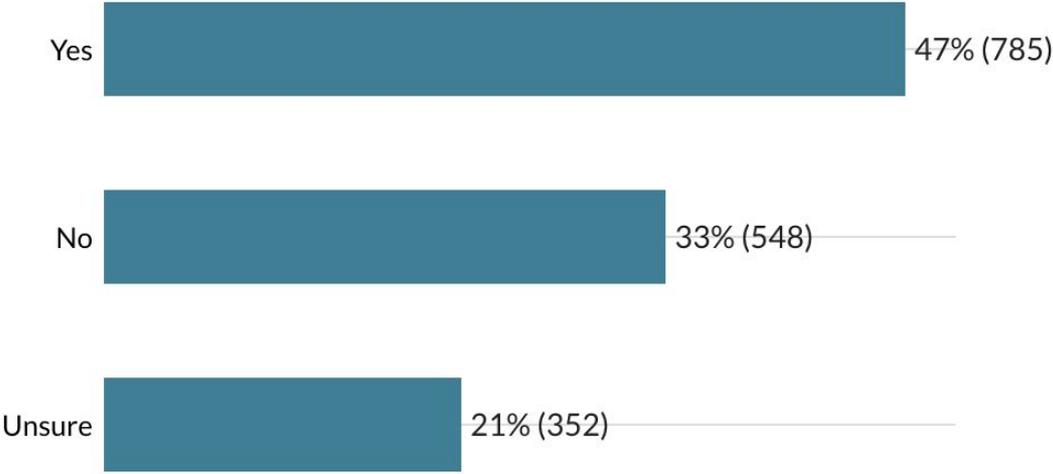


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What Parents Said

At school sponsored after school or evening activities, should 3-8 students be able to use phones and smartwatches with cellular service? (Such as a school dance, but not parent group events)





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What Parents Said

What are the primary reasons for why your child needs a phone and/or smartwatch with cellular service during school? (Select up to 2)



1647

Responses

%		Answer <i>(Multiple select)</i>
58%	(960)	Safety
50%	(828)	Coordination of drop off and pick up
34%	(564)	Stay in touch with family
3%	(54)	Help with homework
1%	(24)	Occupy or entertain during downtime
6%	(97)	Because we do not have a phone at home
3%	(44)	So they can take their own photos
24%	(398)	Other

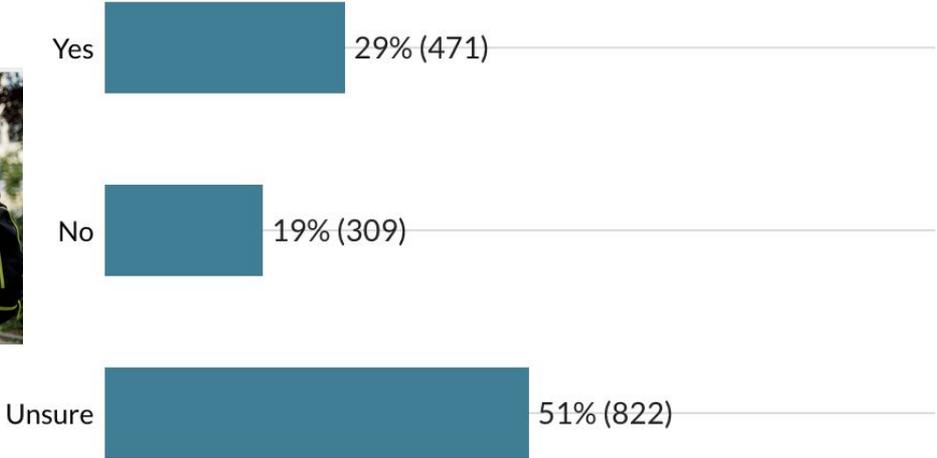


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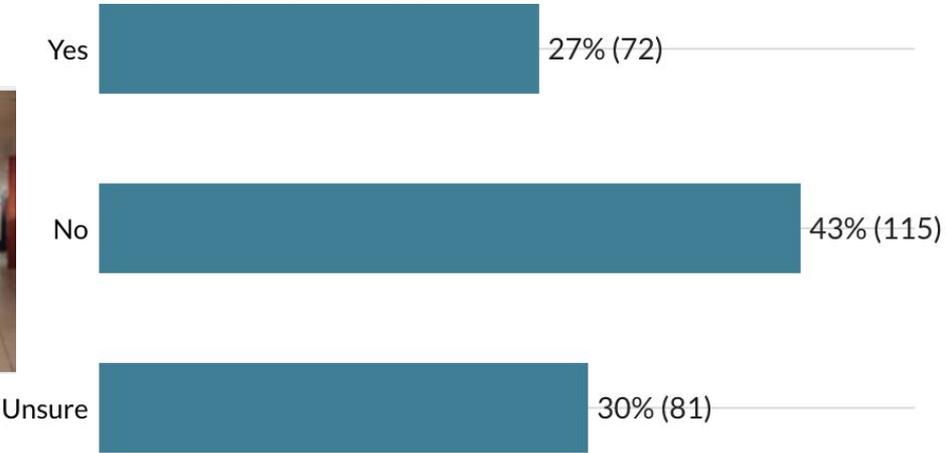
What Parents Said

Are students following the phone and smartwatch with cell service regulations at school?



What Staff Said

Are students following the phone and smartwatch with cell service regulations at school?



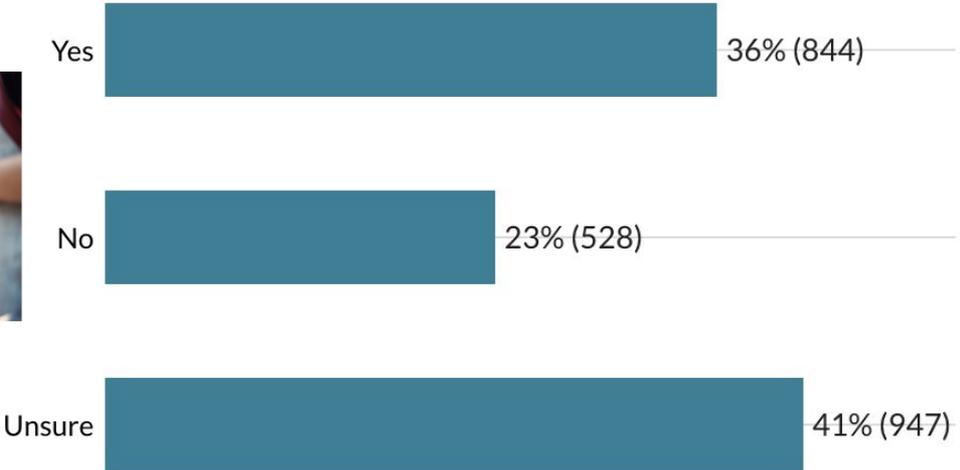


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What Students Said

Are students following the cell phone and smartwatch rules at school?



What Parents Said

What are the top challenges with student cell phone and/or smartwatches with cellular service use in school? (Select up to 2)



1606
 Responses



%		Answer <i>(Multiple select)</i>
79%	(1272)	Distraction from learning
43%	(686)	Social media use during class
45%	(722)	Texting or messaging during class
30%	(480)	Used for inappropriate content
33%	(533)	Student use cannot be monitored
6%	(94)	No challenges
7%	(118)	Other



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What Staff said

What are the top challenges with student cell phone and/or smartwatches with cellular service use in school? (Select up to 2)



269

Responses



%		Answer <i>(Multiple select)</i>
84%	(227)	Distraction from learning
51%	(137)	Social media use during class
49%	(132)	Texting or messaging during class
49%	(133)	Used for inappropriate content
49%	(132)	Student use cannot be monitored
0%	(1)	No challenges
12%	(31)	Other



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What Students said

What are the top challenges with students using phones and/or smartwatches with cell service in school?
(Select up to 2)



2320

Responses



%		Answer <i>(Multiple select)</i>
62%	(1441)	Distraction from learning
36%	(831)	Social media use during class
40%	(917)	Texting or messaging during class
26%	(593)	Used for inappropriate content
17%	(387)	Student use cannot be monitored
18%	(421)	No challenges
8%	(175)	Other

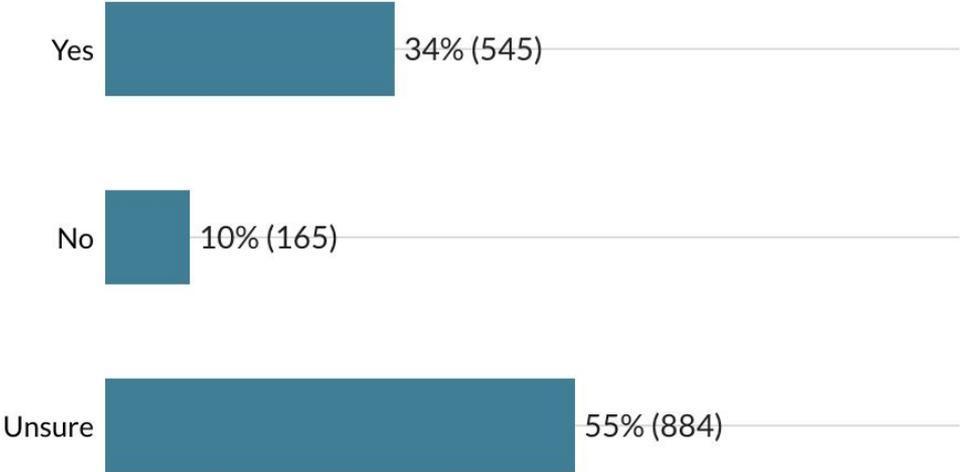


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What Parents Said

Are the phone and smartwatch with cell service regulations being enforced at school?



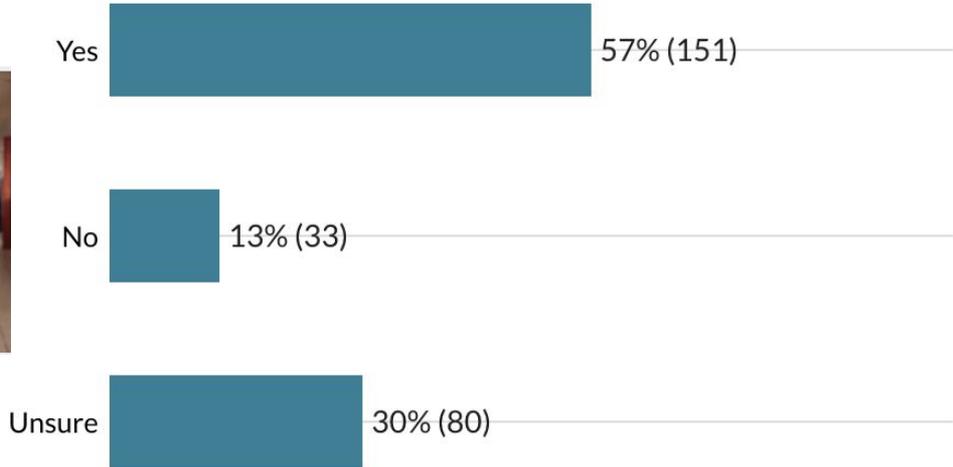


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What Staff Said

Are the phone and smartwatch with cell service regulations being enforced at school?



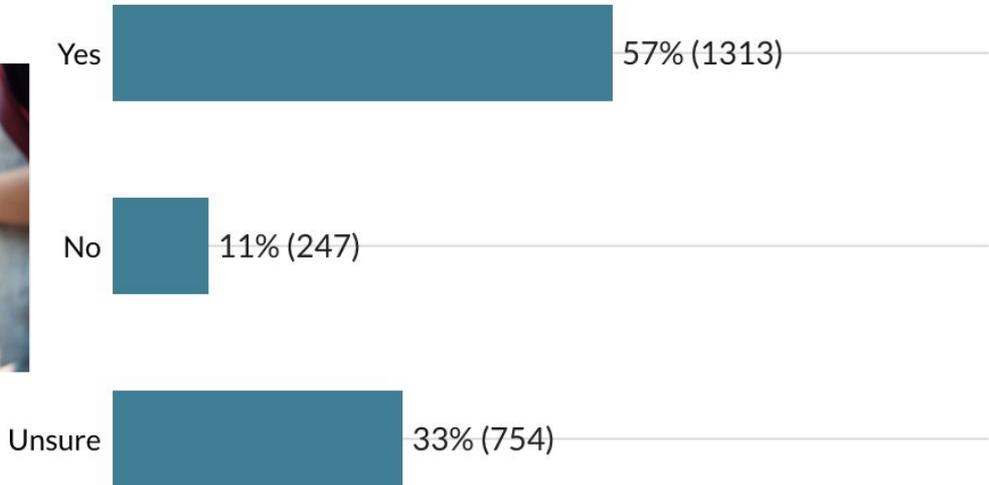


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What Students said

Are the cell phone and smartwatch rules being enforced at school?





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What Parents Said

There is a new law regarding student cellphone and smartwatch use at school. AB-3216 limits student smartphone use during school hours, except in specific situations such as emergencies, with staff permission, for medical reasons, or if required by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for students with special needs. What strategies should RCSD consider to implement this law effectively?



1555

Responses

%		Answer <i>(Multiple select)</i>
47%	(736)	Lockable phone storage or pouches during class
54%	(839)	Clear classroom policies and consequences
33%	(509)	Increased digital literacy and responsible use education
37%	(574)	Designated phone-free zones and times
41%	(637)	Parent partnerships to support limit
7%	(114)	Other



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Example of Phone Storage During the School Day



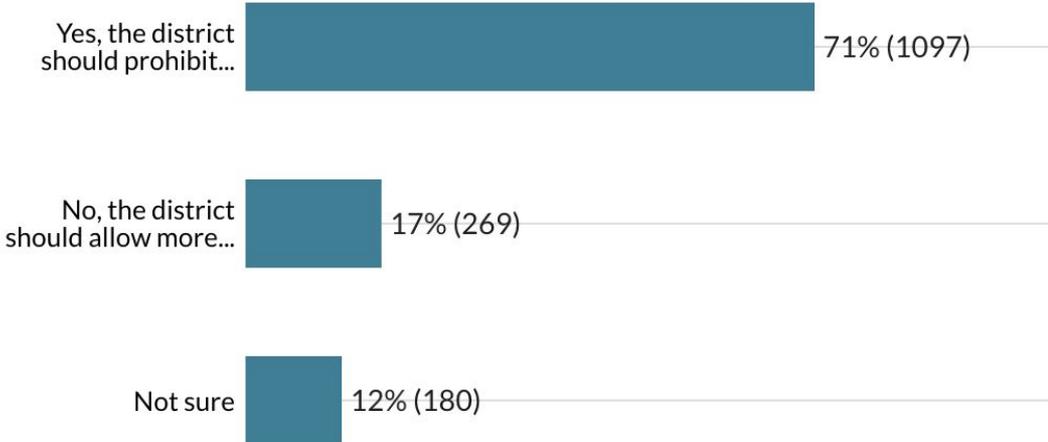


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What Parents Said

Should the district prohibit student smartphone use at all times during school hours, except in the situations outlined in the new law (emergencies, staff permission, medical necessity, or as part of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for students with special needs)?



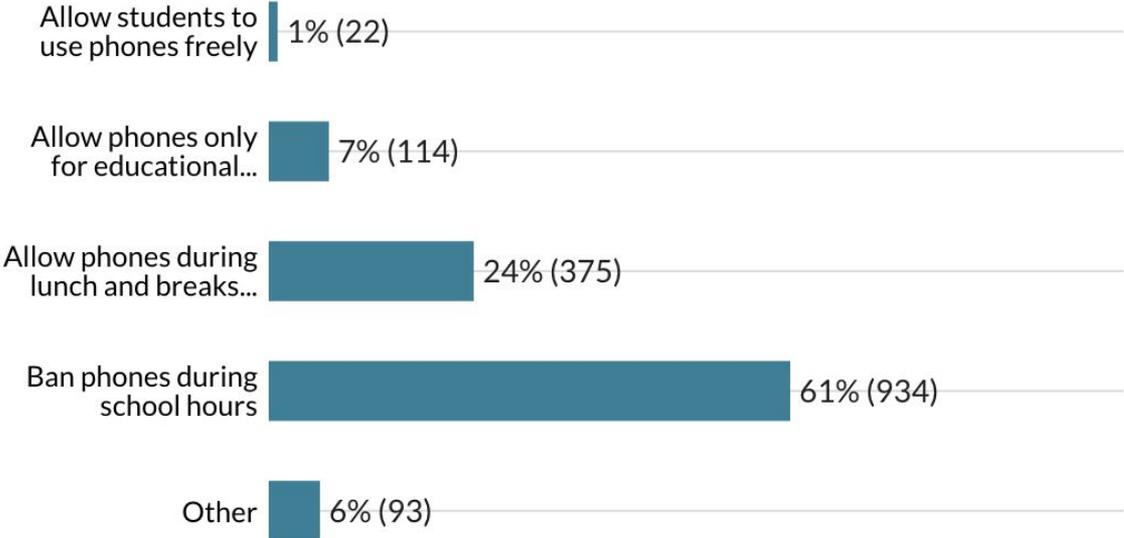


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What Parents Said

What type of policy do you think would be most effective for managing cell phone use in schools?





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Upcoming Board Meetings

Current Policy



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Students may use cell phones, smart watches, pagers, or other mobile communication devices on campus during noninstructional time as long as the device is utilized in accordance with law and any rules that individual school sites may impose.

Mobile communication devices shall be turned off during instructional time. However, a student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7)

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger
2. When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator
3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being
4. When the possession or use is required by the student's individualized education program

Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person.

Stay tuned!



June 11, 2025

First Reading of Draft Board Policy

June 24, 2025

Second Reading of Draft Board Policy



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Questions or comments?
Please use the chat feature

Thank you!



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