

Phone-Free Learning Environment Town Hall

August 7, 2024



Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of Meeting
- Research and Rationale
- KISD Cell Phone Policy
- Panel discussion of submitted questions
- Resources for students, staff, and parents



What the Research Tells Us

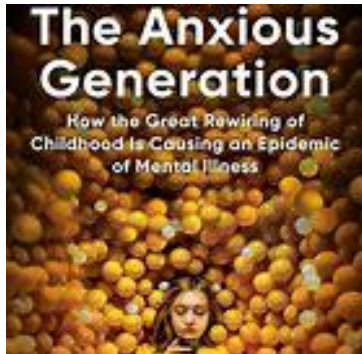
"We have over-protected our children in the real world, and under-protected them in the online world" ~Jonathan Haidt

ScienceNews
INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM SINCE 1921

ALL TOPICS HEALTH

NEWS SCIENCE & SOCIETY

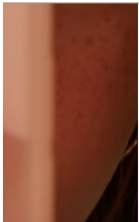
Social media harms teens' mental health, mounting evidence shows. What now?



The Atlantic

Sign In

Subscribe



TECHNOLOGY

**END THE PHONE-BASED
CHILDHOOD NOW**



On May 23, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy issued an advisory warning about the impact that social media is having on the mental health of young people:

"I issued this advisory because this is an urgent crisis," Murthy tells TIME. "In the effort to maximize the benefit and minimize the harms of social media on children, we have not made enough progress. As a consequence, I worry about the mental health and well-being of our children."



What the Research Tells Us

- Children spend an average of 3.5-4.5 hours a day on cell phones
- Since 2013, self-harm for girls has increased 150%
- Anxiety for all children has increased by 134%
- Time with friends has decreased by 65%
- Students unlock their cell phones an average of 50-60 times a day
- The amount of time a student spends on their cell phone during a day negatively impacts academic performance
- FOMO (fear of missing out) distracts from student engagement
- Social media encourages continual connectivity and participation among users which results in high levels of dopamine in the brain



We Are Not Alone

Students can't get off their phones. Schools have had enough.

Administrators see them as an intensifying distraction — or, worse, a tax on students' mental health

8 min 3020

Kids are using phones in class, even when it's against the rules. Should schools ban them all day?

FOX 4

Live

News

Weather

Sports

Good Day

Traffic

Vote

More :

Grand Prairie, South Grand Prairie HS to require locking phone pouches for students



DALLAS Observer

News

Food & Drink

Arts & Culture

Music

Cannabis

Things To Do

The Dallas Morning News

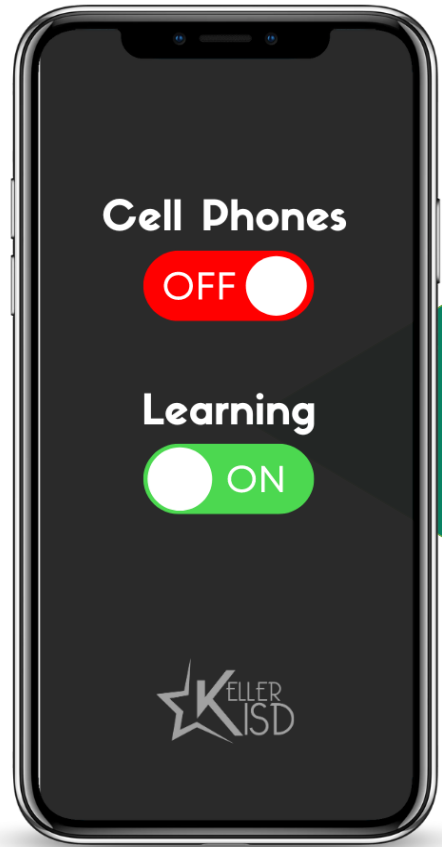
**Want to retain teachers?
Try a student cellphone
ban**

EDUCATION

More Student Phones Will Be Stuffed Into Pouches in Dallas, Richardson ISDs



Rationale and Decision Process



ACADEMIC GROWTH

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT

New Student Cell Phone Policy

Keller ISD is reclaiming the student learning environment

- Not allowing the use of personal electronic communication devices from the start of the school day to the end of the school day
- Devices must be powered off and kept in a bag, purse, or backpack during the school day
 - School Day = first instructional period of the day until end of last instructional period of the day
- Reduced distractions for students
- Minimized interruptions to the learning process



New Student Cell Phone Policy

- **Emergency Drill Access:** During emergency drills, students may carry their backpack, bag, or purse, ensuring access to their cell phone for emergencies
- **Emergency Situations:** In case of an emergency, students may use designated school phones or seek permission from school staff to access their cell phones
- **Headphones and Bluetooth Devices:** Headphones, earphones, and earbuds with Bluetooth capability are not allowed to be worn on campus except for teacher-approved instructional purposes
- **Exceptions:** Students that have health needs which require ongoing monitoring will be able to have access to their device
- **Previous IEP (Individual Educational Plan) and 504 Exceptions will be allowed**
- **Student Travel:** Cell phones are allowed on buses except during school day instructional field trips



New Student Cell Phone Policy

Levels of Disciplinary Consequences for High School Campuses, KCAL, KCA, and KCC

All Offenses:

1. Confiscation of phone
2. Parent Contact
3. Cell phone/device held in office until the end of the day

Additionally...

First Offense – Detention (lunch, before school, or after school)

Second Offense – Saturday School

Third Offense – One Day of ISS (Student not eligible for semester exam exemptions)

Fourth Offense – Three Days of ISS

Fifth Offense – Five days of DAEP placement (all DAEP rules and expectations enforced)

Sixth Offense – 30 days of DAEP placement (all DAEP rules and expectations enforced)



New Student Cell Phone Policy

Levels of Disciplinary Consequences for Intermediate & Middle Schools

All Offenses:

1. Confiscation of phone
2. Parent Contact
3. Cell phone/device held in office until the end of the day

Additionally...

Second Offense – Detention (lunch, before school, or after school)

Third Offense – One Day of ISS (Student not eligible for semester exam exemptions)

Fourth Offense – Student required to turn phone into office for remainder of year

Additional Offenses – Administrator discretion following Student Code of Conduct for persistent misconduct



New Student Cell Phone Policy

Levels of Disciplinary Consequences for Elementary Schools

All Offenses:

1. Confiscation of phone
2. Parent Contact
3. Cell phone/device held in office until the end of the day

Additionally...

Second Offense – Detention (lunch, before school, or after school)

Third Offense – One Day of ISS (Student not eligible for semester exam exemptions)

Fourth Offense – Student required to turn phone into office for remainder of year



What to Expect and Implementation

- Elementary Schools will start on the 1st day of instruction
- Intermediate, Middle, and High Schools will start on August 26
- The district will create feedback opportunities throughout the school year for students, staff, and parents
- Campus leaders will start communicating with parents, staff, and students in the upcoming week



Panel Discussion of Submitted Questions

Previous Phone Use Expectations

Logistics

Communication with Students

Emergency Situations

Academics

Technology Capability

Employee Expectations

Parent Expectations



Moving Forward....

www.KellerISD.net/PhoneFree



Submit Additional Questions

