

Engagement Summary

Kwame Morton, Cherry Hill Public Schools
April 2, 2024

Cell Phone Usage in our Schools



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation




Please indicate your role in the Cherry Hill Public Schools



3647

Responses

%		Answer (Multi-select)
52%	(1895)	I am a parent/guardian.
14%	(522)	I am a staff member.
35%	(1289)	I am a student.



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation




What grade level best applies to your interaction with the Cherry Hill Public Schools?



3620

Responses

%		Answer (Multi-select)
3%	(96)	PreK
26%	(949)	Elementary
49%	(1760)	Middle School
32%	(1156)	High School
9%	(324)	Combination of two or more grade levels



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation




What device are you using to participate in this survey?



3608

Responses

%		Answer (Multi-select)
47%	(1692)	Cell phone
1%	(50)	Tablet (e.g., iPad or similar device)
45%	(1620)	Laptop computer
9%	(310)	Desktop computer

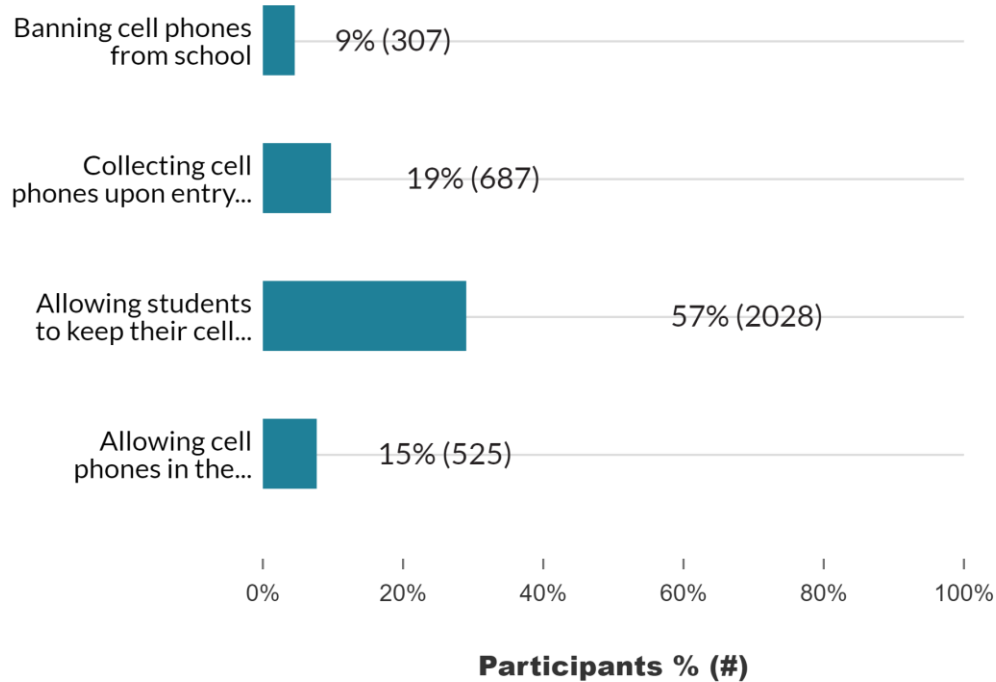


PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Which of the following potential policies regarding student cell phone use do you believe is best?





SUMMARY

A quick overview of the main thoughts



The responses indicate a general consensus that cell phones should be allowed in schools for emergency situations and to maintain contact with parents, particularly for after-school activities. However, many respondents believe that phones should be kept off or unused during class time to prevent distractions and promote social skills. Some suggest that phones could be used during breaks or when permitted by a teacher. A few respondents express concerns about potential misuse of phones, such as sharing inappropriate content or bullying. There is also a sentiment that banning phones entirely is unrealistic and that students should be taught responsible use instead.



THEMES

A quick overview of the main thoughts



1

Emergency Use

Many respondents believe that cell phones should be allowed in schools for emergency situations. They argue that students should have the ability to contact their parents or emergency services if needed.

However, they also believe that cell phones should not be used during class time unless it's an emergency. Some respondents also mentioned that cell phones can provide a sense of safety and comfort for students.



2

Distraction Concerns

A significant number of respondents expressed concerns about cell phones being a major distraction in the classroom. They believe that cell phones can take away from the learning experience and can lead to decreased social skills. Some respondents also mentioned that cell phones can lead to issues such as bullying and privacy invasion. However, they also acknowledge that completely banning cell phones may not be feasible.



3

Policy Enforcement

Respondents have mixed views on how cell phone use policies should be enforced in schools. Some believe that cell phones should be collected at the beginning of each class to minimize distractions, while others think this approach is unrealistic and burdensome for teachers. Some respondents also mentioned that students should be taught how to use cell phones responsibly instead of having them taken away.



4

Learning Tool

Some respondents see cell phones as potential learning tools. They argue that cell phones can be used for research, checking spelling, or finding better word choices. However, they also acknowledge that cell phones can be a distraction if not used properly. Some respondents also mentioned that cell phones can be used for self-regulation, especially for students with special needs.



5

Communication Needs

A number of respondents believe that cell phones are necessary for communication needs, such as coordinating after-school pickups or checking notifications about club meetings or games. They argue that students should be allowed to use their cell phones during non-class hours for these purposes. However, they also believe that cell phones should not be used during class time.



Questions?