



## **Yondr Pouch FAQ: TUHSD**

The District is still exploring the use of Yondr pouches to achieve phone free schools. No decision has been made, the Board will take action on the potential adoption of Yondr pouches during the November 19th regularly scheduled Board meeting at Kreps Conference Center, Redwood Campus.

### **1. Why does the district believe schools should be phone free spaces?**

- a. There is mounting research that shows a correlation between student screen time, specifically with social media and negative mental health effects.
  - i. [Gallup Poll: Adolescent mental health problems by screen time use](#)
  - ii. [Gallup Poll: Teen mental health by time spent on social media](#)

### **2. What is a Yondr Pouch?**

- a. The Yondr Pouch is a secure bag that is used to store an individual's mobile device or devices. It is secured and unlocked with a special magnetic locking device.
- b. Yondr pouches do not require a magnet to lock



**3. If the Bond passes, would the district use bond money to buy the pouches?**

- a. **NO**, the one time expense of about \$160,000 would come from the district's general fund. Ongoing costs after the initial purchase is estimated at \$20,000-\$30,000

**4. If the district adopts the use of Yondr pouches, would students have access to their phones if an emergency occurs.**

- a. Yes, all classrooms would be equipped with an unlocking device, as will offices, counseling and wellness centers
- b. All classrooms and offices in our schools are equipped with phones that can dial 911. Our staff is trained to execute safety and emergency procedures.
- c. Students should always follow the school's emergency procedures in the case of an emergency.

**5. How would students receive a Yondr pouch?**

- a. If the Board decides to implement the use of Yondr Pouches, beginning in January 2024, all students in grades 9-12 would be assigned a Yondr pouch in which to secure their phone and/or smartwatch.
  - i. The pouches would be the property of the school and would be considered on loan to the students during the school year. Students would be responsible for their assigned Yondr pouch at all times and for bringing the pouch to and from school each day and keeping them in good condition.

**6. What if my child leaves school and forgets to unlock their device?**

- a. We would have unlocking devices outside, attached to buildings in lock boxes that will be accessible after school hours.

**7. I have heard that it is easy to get an unauthorized unlocking device on the internet, won't kids just do that.**

- a. As with our current system, some students try to get around the policy. There would be consequences for a student who did not follow the policy and the district would employ our progressive discipline procedures to ensure compliance.

**8. What happens if a student doesn't have their Yondr Pouch?**

- a. The phone would be turned over to the main office staff and secured in the school, safe until the end of the school day. At the end of the school day, students would retrieve their phone by showing their school ID.

**9. How would the start and end of the day work?**

- a. All students would be required to secure their phone in their assigned Yondr pouch before they enter their first class of the day.
- b. All students would be able to unpouch their phone at the end of their school day-all-classrooms would have an unlocking device.

**10. What would happen if a student needed their personal device for a medical issue?**

- a. Students who have a documented medical condition and who need a personal device for monitoring their condition would be provided with a non-locking Yondr pouch that has a velcro seal.

**11. Could the school just implement a zero-tolerance policy and allow students to keep their phones put away without the use of pouches?**

- a. The school introduced the use of phone sleeves last year in an attempt to limit cell phone use in the classroom. While this enhances phone restriction has been beneficial, our feedback indicates the policy is not uniformly implemented
- b. Further, under the current policy students still have access to their phones during passing period and breaks, thus the schools are not phone-free spaces

**12. Requiring students to lock their phones away seems like a punishment for high school students. Would this be the case?**

- a. The introduction of Yondr pouches would not be a punitive measure. The intention of Yondr is three-fold:

- i. to create classroom environments where teachers can teach and students can learn free from distractions caused by the personal use of devices;
- ii. to reduce the negative impacts of inappropriate use of devices at school, such as cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, and incidents involving mobile phones that detract from a healthy school climate
- iii. to increase meaningful face-to-face connections between students.

**13. What would happen during lunch?**

- a. The board has not determined whether or not students would be allowed to unpouch during lunch, if Yondr pouches are adopted.