



# NORMANDY SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE

## District-Wide Student Cell Phone Policy Update Effective January 2025

**Michael Triplett, Ph. D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

### **Normandy Schools Collaborative**

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### **Mission**

Normandy Schools Collaborative prepares global leaders for college, career, and productive citizenship by empowering a community of confident learners and valuing the unique contributions of every student.

### **Joint Executive Governing Board Members**

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Dear Normandy Families,

I am writing to inform you about an important policy change that will take effect across all schools in our district beginning January 2025: **zero cell phone use during school hours**. This decision comes after careful consideration, a thorough review of past initiatives, and extensive discussions with staff, families, and community stakeholders.

### **The New Policy**

Beginning in January 2025, **students will not be permitted to bring cell phones on school grounds during school hours.**

This policy is designed to foster an environment that prioritizes learning, personal interactions, and student safety. Exceptions will be made for students with documented medical needs or specific educational accommodations requiring technology use.

### **Background and Previous Efforts**

Over the years, our district has made multiple attempts to address the challenges posed by student cell phone use in schools. While we recognize the role of technology in education and communication, we have observed that cell phones have increasingly become a source of distraction, conflict, and disruption in classrooms and common areas.

**1. Yondr Pouch Initiative:** In two separate attempts, we implemented the use of Yondr pouches, which required students to lock their phones in secure pouches during the school day. Unfortunately, these efforts were met with significant resistance, as many students deliberately damaged or tampered with the pouches, rendering them ineffective. Despite clear guidelines and efforts to educate students about the policy, enforcement became unsustainable.

**2. Parental Communication:** We have consistently sent letters home to inform families of the district's concerns regarding cell phone use. These communications stressed the negative impact on academic performance, social interactions, and overall student well-being. While we saw some improvement, inconsistent adherence to the policy undermined its effectiveness. The last letter sent in late September stated that we may move to a ban.

### **Educational Impact**

Data from classroom observations and staff reports highlight that cell phones continue to distract students from learning, facilitate inappropriate behaviors such as cyberbullying, and contribute to mental health challenges, including increased anxiety and social comparison.

### **Protocols for Violations:**

To ensure consistency and fairness in enforcement, the district has established the following protocols for students who violate the cell phone ban:

#### **First Offense**

- The cell phone will be confiscated by a staff member and turned in to the school office.
- The student may retrieve the phone at the end of the school day.
- A warning letter will be sent home to the parents or guardians.

### **Second Offense**

- The cell phone will be confiscated and held in the school office.
- A parent or guardian will be required to come to the school to retrieve the phone.
- The student will serve a 3-day detention.

### **Third Offense**

- The phone will be confiscated and held until a parent/guardian meeting is conducted with the school administration.
- Additionally, the student will serve 1-day out of school suspension.
- The student will be placed on a contract for incorrigible conduct.

### **Repeated Violations**

- Confiscation procedures will escalate, and the student may face additional disciplinary measures, including being removed from the traditional setting and placed in an alternative setting for a period of no less than a school quarter.

### **Emergency Situations:**

In cases where students believe they must contact their parents or guardians, the school counselor, social worker, nurse or front office will allow those students to contact their parents. Students must obtain permission from the nearest teacher or administrator to request permission to visit those staff persons to make such an emergency call.

Parents needing to get in touch with their students must do so through the school their school site.

All school sites will manage the flow of calls and act accordingly so that student requests and calls from parents are not overbearing/overwhelming and does not distract the academic environment.

### **Supporting the Transition**

We understand that this policy may require adjustments for students and families. To support the transition, we will:

- Host informational sessions for parents at **6 p.m. on December 19 at Lucas Crossing Middle School, 7837 Natural Bridge Road**, to answer questions and provide tips on helping students adapt.
- Provide resources on teaching students digital responsibility and fostering healthier relationships with technology.
- Ensure that students have access to school phones for urgent communication needs.

We firmly believe this policy will enhance our students' educational experiences, promote healthier social interactions, and reduce distractions that hinder learning and growth. Your support is essential to the success of this initiative. Together, we can create a school environment where students are fully engaged and empowered to reach their highest potential.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership in this endeavor and your ongoing commitment to the success of our schools. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office or your child's school principal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Triplett, Ph. D.,  
Superintendent of Schools