



Cell Phone Free Schools Policy

Fairview Park City Schools

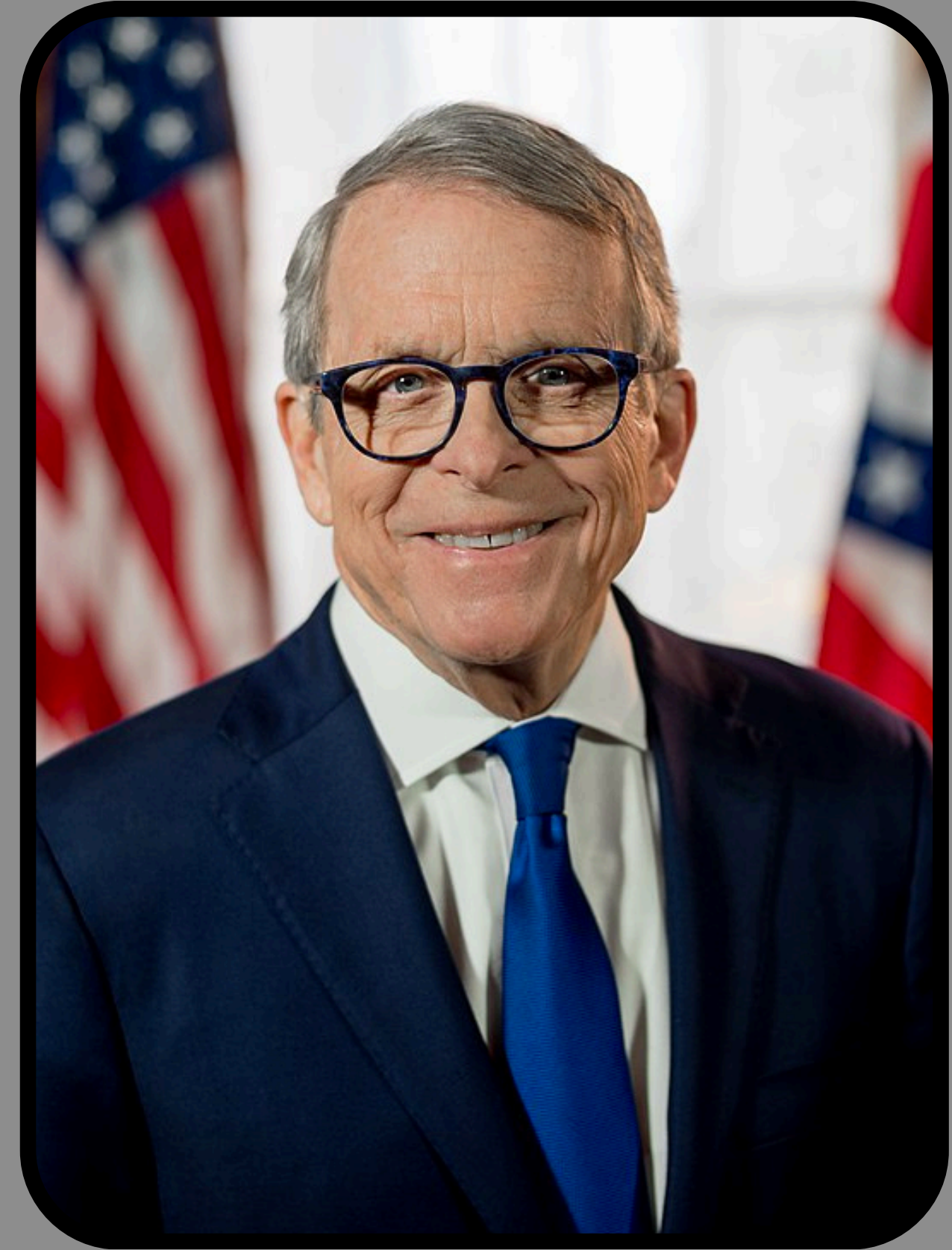
March 18, 2025

Board of Education

Presentation

HOUSE BILL 250

On May 15, 2024, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 250 into law, requiring all Ohio school districts to establish board policy governing student cell phone usage during school hours. Districts are mandated to adopt these policies by July 1, 2025.



97%

Of Students Use Cell Phones During School, an average of 43 minutes per day, spent primarily on social media, YouTube, and gaming.

Common Sense Media



Photo Citation

How Cell Phones Impact Student Focus & Mental Health

50% +

of kids get 237 notifications per day



Some receive as many as

4,500

EVERY DAY!

Common Sense Media

Since 2010

134% & 106%

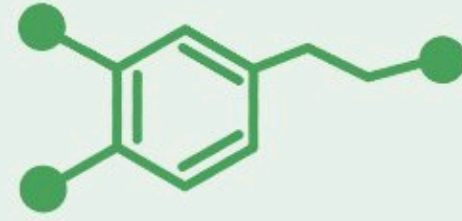
Increase in anxiety

Increase in depression

The Anxious Generation



NATURAL DOPAMINE RELEASE



READING



SUNLIGHT



EXERCISING



MEDITATING



ADVENTURES



COLD SHOWERS



PURSUING GOALS

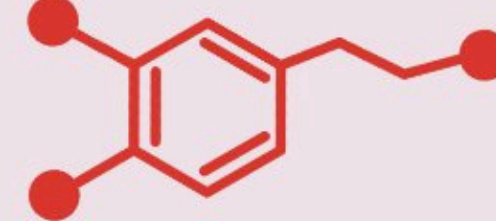


SITTING IN NATURE



LISTENING TO MUSIC

UNNATURAL DOPAMINE RELEASE



TV



PN**



DRUGS



ALCOHOL



SHOPPING



JUNK FOOD



VIDEO GAMES



SOCIAL MEDIA



CAFFEINE / NICOTINE



BENEFITS OF A PHONE-FREE POLICY

Fewer Distractions

Less Cyberbullying

Fewer Fights and Social Media-related Conflict

Increase Engagement

Improved Attendance

More Reading

Improved Teacher Morale and Retention

More Social and Interactive Lunchrooms

Less Cheating

Less Reported Stress by Students



IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



MARCH 19

Email
Communication
to Parents
Explaining the
Policy and
Implementation
Timeline



MARCH 21

Staff Meetings
on Professional
Development
Day to Review
Policy



MARCH 24

Superintendent
Town Hall
Presentation



APRIL 1

PTA Meeting
at FHS/LMMS
to take
questions
from parents



**MARCH/
APRIL**

Communication
with Students
about Rationale,
Expectations,
and
Consequences



APRIL 15

Second
Reading on
Board
Agenda



APRIL 28

Policy Takes
Effect in all
Schools,
pending
Board
Approval

What the Policy Means for Student?

OFF AND AWAY ALL-DAY	UNSTRUCTURED TIMES	RESTROOMS OR LOCKER ROOMS	EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
Cell phones must remain off and stored from arrival until dismissal	Cell Phones must remain off and away during all school hours, including unstructured times like lunch and study halls	For privacy and safety reasons, cell phones are prohibited from restrooms and lockerooms	If a student needs to contact a parent or guardian, they should use the main office

ENFORCEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

**1ST OFFENSE: STAFF
CONFISCATION OF THE DEVICE.
IT WILL BE RETURNED TO THE
STUDENT AT THE END OF THE DAY
FROM THE MAIN OFFICE.**

**3RD OFFENSE: STAFF
CONFISCATION OF THE DEVICE.
THE DEVICE MUST BE PICKED UP BY
A PARENT AT THE SCHOOL AND
MEET WITH THE PRINCIPAL.**

**2ND OFFENSE: STAFF
CONFISCATION OF THE DEVICE.
THE DEVICE MUST BE PICKED UP BY
A PARENT AT THE SCHOOL.**

**REPEATED OFFENSES:
PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE WILL BE
ISSUED, WHICH MAY RESULT IN
SUSPENSIONS.**

Evaluation and Next Steps



GATHER FEEDBACK

Collect feedback from
staff, students, and
parents



ASSESS AND REFINE

Assess and refine
implementation based
on feedback



COMMITMENT

Ensure a strong
rollout for the 2025-
2026 School Year

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DOES A "CELL PHONE-FREE SCHOOL" MEAN?

A cell phone-free school means that students are not allowed to use their phones or internet-connected devices during the school day, including in classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and common areas. Phones must be stored off and away in a locker or bookbag and may not be accessed until the end of the school day.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IF A STUDENT NEEDS THEIR
PHONE FOR MEDICAL REASONS?

Accommodations will be made per the
student's 504/IEP plans

HOW WILL PARENTS COMMUNICATE
WITH STUDENTS DURING THE DAY?

Parents can call the main office for
urgent messages

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY IS THE SCHOOL IMPLEMENTING A
CELL PHONE-FREE POLICY?

HB 250 requires schools to implement a policy restricting cell phone use during school hours. Research shows that excessive phone use in schools negatively impacts learning, focus, social interactions, and mental health. By reducing distractions, we aim to create a more engaging, focused, and positive school environment where students can fully participate in learning.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT RESEARCH SUPPORTS LIMITING CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOLS?

Studies from institutions like the American Psychological Association and the Pew Research Center indicate that cell phone use can contribute to increased anxiety, reduced attention span, and lower academic performance. Schools that have implemented phone-free policies have reported improvements in student behavior, engagement, and social interaction.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT TYPES OF DEVICES ARE INCLUDED
IN THE POLICY?

The policy applies to all personal electronic devices, including smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, earbuds, and other communication devices. Classroom technology such as Macbooks and school-issued devices will still be used for instructional purposes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT IS
CAUGHT USING THEIR PHONE DURING
THE SCHOOL DAY?

If a student is caught using their phone, it will be confiscated and stored in the main office until the end of the school day. A parent may need to pick up the phone for repeated violations.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR
REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF THE POLICY?

Consequences may escalate with repeated offenses, including detention, a parent conference, In-School Suspension, or Out-of-School Suspensions. The goal is to encourage responsible behavior, not to punish students.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW WILL TEACHERS AND STAFF
ENFORCE THE POLICY FAIRLY AND
CONSISTENTLY?

Staff will be trained on enforcement procedures to ensure consistency. Students will receive clear expectations at the start of implementation, and reminders will be provided as needed.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY AT SCHOOL? HOW WILL STUDENTS BE INFORMED?

In the event of an emergency, school staff will communicate directly with students through the PA system, classroom announcements, and teacher instructions. Parents will be notified via school communication channels.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW WILL THIS POLICY IMPACT STUDENT SAFETY, ESPECIALLY BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL?

The policy applies only during school hours. Students are allowed to use their phones before and after school.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN PARENTS OPT THEIR CHILD OUT OF
THE POLICY?

No. This policy applies to all students to ensure fairness and effectiveness. If a parent has concerns, they should contact the school administration to discuss possible accommodations.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ARE TEACHERS AND STAFF ALSO
REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THE CELL
PHONE-FREE POLICY?

Staff are expected to model appropriate phone use and limit use during instructional time. However, they may need to use their phones for school-related communication.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW WILL THIS POLICY BE INTRODUCED
AND COMMUNICATED TO STUDENTS,
PARENTS, AND STAFF?

The policy will be communicated through
school newsletters, student assemblies,
classroom discussions, and parent meetings.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN WILL THIS POLICY TAKE EFFECT?

Pending Board approval, this policy will be set to take effect after spring break, starting on Monday, April 28, 2025.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE?

Parents can help by discussing the importance of staying present at school, reinforcing expectations, and ensuring students understand why the policy is in place.

QUESTIONS & CONCERNS?

**SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO SUBMIT FEEDBACK
REGARDING
POLICY 6.61 -
STUDENT USE OF CELL
PHONES IN SCHOOLS**



THANK YOU & QUESTIONS

