

BOARD OF EDUCATION MOBILE DEVICE POLICY

May 5, 2025

2

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Not a simple question

Research on the use of cellphones in schools points to an issue with multiple potential impacts

Academic Performance

- Mixed findings
- Potential for impacts to differ among student groups



- Increased difficulty focusing
- Opportunities for academic dishonesty



- Links to social isolation and mental wellness
- Impacts cyberbullying and on campus incidents



AB 3216





Requires a Policy

"...to limit or prohibit the use by pupils of smartphones..."



Addresses Use During The Full Day

"... while the pupils are at a school site or while the pupils are under the supervision and control of an employee."



Must Be Updated

The policy must be reviewed and updated every five years.



Involves Stakeholders

Requires stakeholder participation to develop, review and update.



Limits When Phones Can Be Prohibited

Exemptions for emergencies, when permission is given, with a doctor's note or when included in an IEP.



Must be Completed by 2026

All districts must have an initial policy in place by July 1, 2026 but may implement earlier if prepared.

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



Focus Groups & Interviews

Visited with key leaders and groups including the Superintendent's parent and student advisory councils.

ThoughtExchange

Students, parents/guardians, staff and others invited to participate and share their thinking.

Feedback on Draft

Opportunity to provide input on suggested language and concepts of the policy.

DRAFT POLICY 5131.8







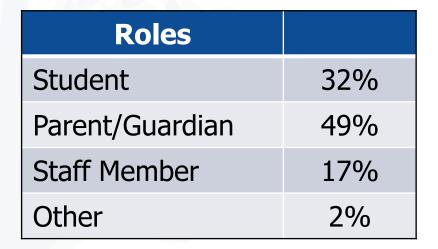


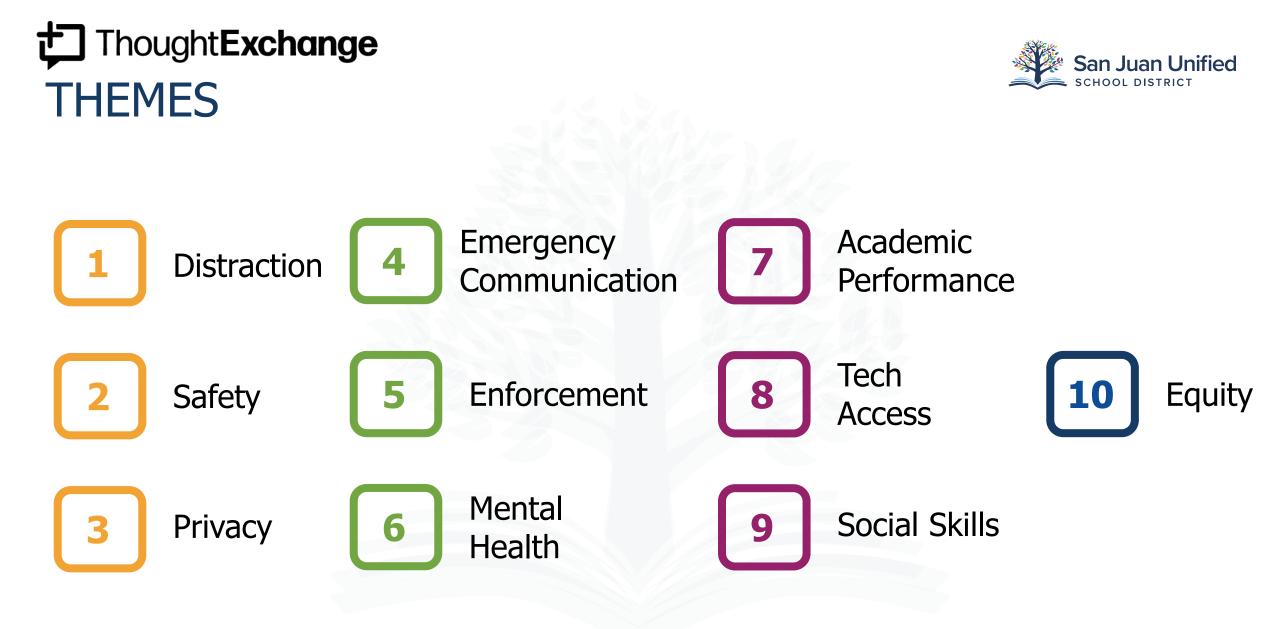
3,671 Thoughts

63,314

Ratings







7

ThoughtExchange

<u>Restrict devices</u> <u>during school hours</u>

Group A

- Distraction
- Negative impact on learning
- Contribute to bullying
- Communication with families can be done through the office

COMMON GROUND

Restricted use with clear policies

- There should be a policy
- Balance a focused learning environment with emergency access

Clear guidelines for enforcement

Allow devices for safety and emergencies

• Needed for safety

- Specific student health needs
- Communication with families in critical situations



Group B

DRAFT POLICY FEEDBACK



THIS IS A DRAFT POLICY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND FEEDBACK. PROVIDE FEEDBACK AT: https://www.sanjuan.edu/mobilepolicy.

The Board shall review and, as necessary, update this policy at least once every five years. Any such review or update shall include significant educational partner participation to ensure that the policy is responsive to the upingue pade and decises of the school community.

THIS IS A DRAFT POLICY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND FEEDBACK. PROVIDE FEEDBACK AT: https://www.sanjuan.edu/mobilepolicy.

BP 5131.8 - Mobile Communication Devices

The Governing Board recognizes that student use of smartphones and other mobile communication devices on campus may be beneficial to student learning but could be harmful and disruptive of the instructional program and detrimental to student mental health and wellbeing in some circumstances.

Students may use smartphones and other smart mobile communication devices only as permitted under this policy.

Unless permitted to do so by a district employee, students shall not use smartphones or other mobile communication devices while at a school site during school hours.

This policy shall not prohibit a student from possessing or limited use of a mobile communication device under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7)

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger

- When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator
- 3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being

The Superintendent or designee may undertake measures or strategies in accordance with law, to limit student access to smartphones and other mobile communication devices on campus. (Education Code 48901.7)

Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person.

A student's personal electronic device shall not be searched without the consent of the student or the student's parent/guardian, except pursuant to a lawfully issued warrant, or when a school official, in good fath, believes that an emergency involving danger of death or serious physical injury to the student or others requires access to the electronic device information, or when the search is otherwise permitted pursuant to Penal Code 1546.1.

When a student uses a smartphone or other mobile communication device in an unauthorized manner while at a school site or under the supervision of a district employee, the student may be disciplined and the district employee may confiscate the device. The employee shall store the device securely until it is returned to the student or parent/guardian, or turned over to the principal or designee, as appropriate. A student may be banned from bringing a device on campus after multiple violations.

A student may also be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, Board policy, or administrative regulation, for off-campus use of a mobile communication device which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property, or substantially disrupts school activities including but not limited to acts of harassment or cyberbullying.

The district will not be responsible or liable for a student's mobile communication device which is brought on campus or to a school activity and is lost, stolen, or damaged.

What do you like?

- Reduced distractions & improved focus
- Bell-to-bell restrictions
- Exceptions for emergencies
- Support for teachers
- Clarity and consistency

Consider changing / don't like ...

- Allow use during non-instructional time
- Allow for emergency family use not just school emergencies
- Enforcement would be difficult
- Teachers and staff should have a policy too for consistency

WHEN TO RESTRICT?

We agree ALL DAY

We can't agree

We agree IN CLASS ONLY

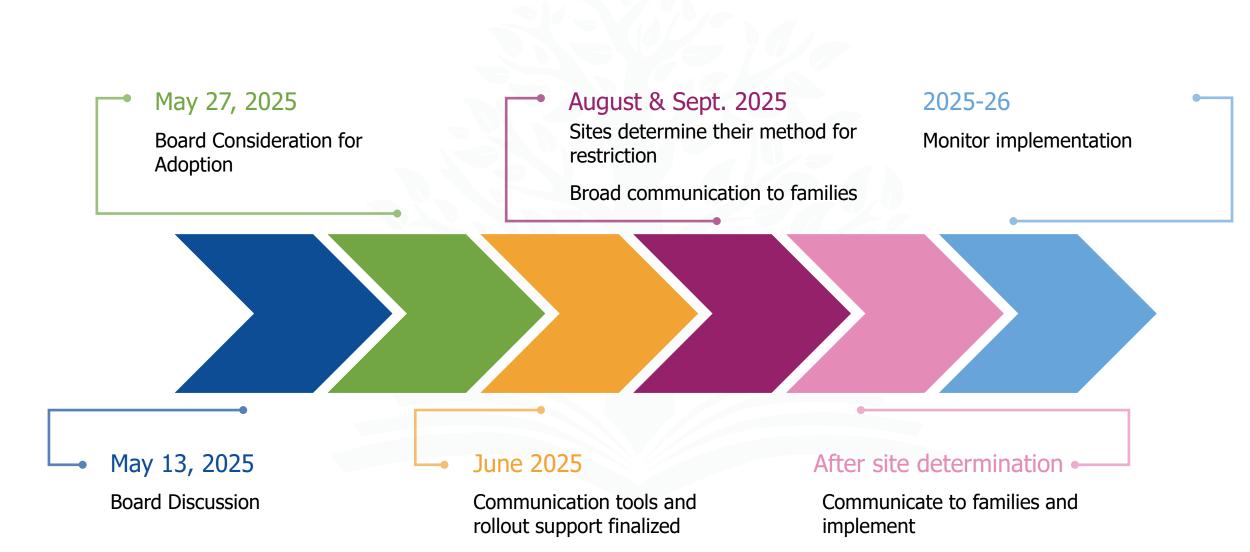
ALL DAY

- Improves safety by reducing bullying and other inappropriate uses
- Improves mental health and well-being
- Encourages social connections

IN CLASS ONLY

- Makes it easier to arrange transportation and other family needs
- Doesn't provide students an opportunity to build responsible use
- All day would be difficult to enforce











Board Policy 5131.8: Mobile Communication Devices

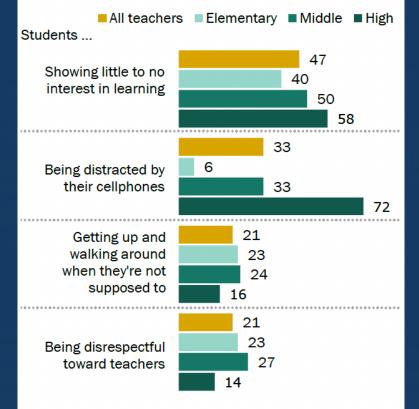
QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



APPENDIX ITEMS

72% of high school teachers say students being distracted by cellphones is a major problem

% of public K-12 teachers saying each of the following is **a major problem** in their classroom





Note: Other responses included "Minor problem" and "Not a problem."

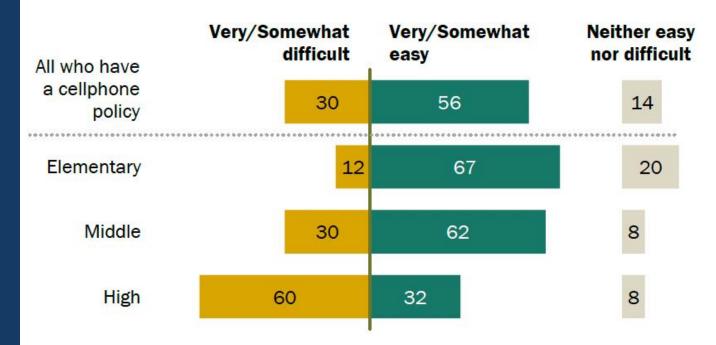
Source: Survey of U.S. public K-12 teachers conducted Oct. 17-Nov. 14, 2023.

"What's It Like To Be a Teacher in America Today?"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Most high school teachers say cellphone policies are hard to enforce

Among public K-12 teachers who say their school or district has policies regarding students' use of cellphones in the classroom, % saying it is _____ for them to enforce these policies



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. public K-12 teachers conducted Oct. 17-Nov. 14, 2023. "What's It Like To Be a Teacher in America Today?"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



CURRENT POLICY



Prohibits Use

Requires devices be turned off in class EXCEPT when instructed to use or when authorized by a doctor.

Reflects Privacy Concerns

Directs that no device with recording capabilities may be used to infringe on another's privacy.

Sets Consequences

Authorizes staff to direct students to put devices away or confiscate them.

BP 5131: Conduct

PRACTICES AS OF FALL 2024

Implementation

- Some require devices be turned off
- Some require devices be on silent
- Some allow students to keep devices, others require they place them in a central location
- Many favor all day restrictions vs. limiting to class time

Enforcement

- Can vary between classrooms
- Can be a point of conflict with some students/families

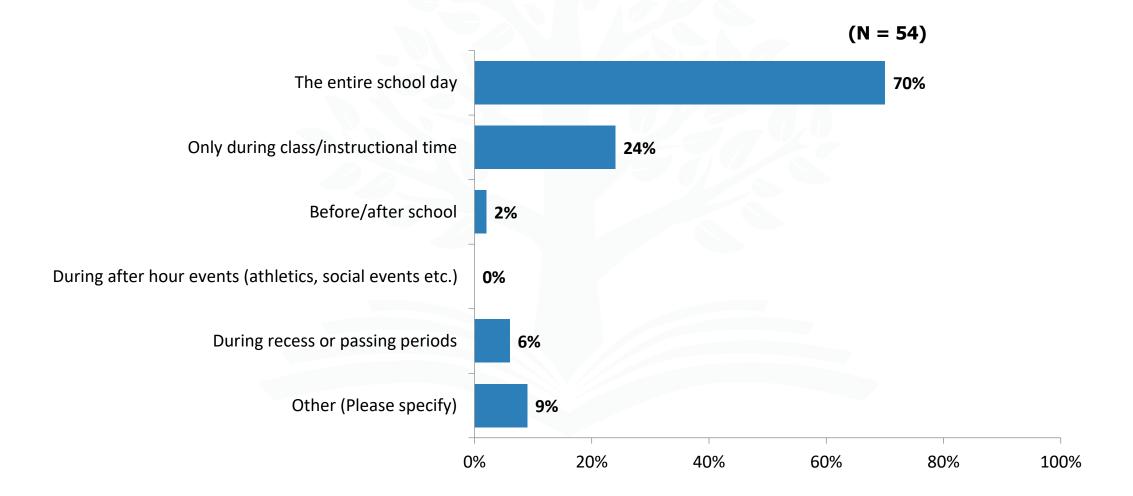
In 2023-24 12 @ Tk-5 1,762 @ 6-8 1,604 @ 9-12



PRACTICES AS OF FALL 2024



When are students NOT allowed to use cellphones?



PRACTICES AS OF FALL 2024



What are students asked to do with their devices during class time?

