

Wednesday, January 7, Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

**Attendees<sup>P</sup><sub>SEP</sub> School Board**

John Gesiskie, Chairperson, Matt Walters, Diane Serfass,  
Denise Hopely Janet Dooner

**Attendees-Administration**

Dr. Howard Dr. Ayers

**Attendees-Community (7 out of 15)**

Antionette Gravel-P Frank Safioti-P  
Jeremy Livingston-CH Lindsey Miller-CH Amanda Pagano-CH  
MariClaire Hosking-E Timothy Hatcher-R

**Absent-Community**

Kristen Rudelitch-P Marsha Overpeck-R Alison Fennell-CH Jennifer Rufo-R  
Sandra Perry-R Jolene Pioli- Nicole Serrano Taisha Garcia

**Cellular Use during school hours 6:30-7:30**

Dr. Howard presented a survey that was sent out to teachers across the district on the use of cell phones. 13 questions were on the survey, a few examples: What grade do you teach?, What subject area do you primarily teach?, Is the current school policy easy to enforce?, How often do you have to interrupt a lesson to address unauthorized cellphone use?, Where do you require students to keep their cell phones during class? Etc.

There were a total of 155 responses across grades K-12. (see attached graph results)

Some elementary teachers bowed out of the survey because at those grade levels there isn't a problem with cell phones.

PVMS & PVHS are where most issues with use occur. Most issues when a substitute teacher is teaching for the day or hallways/bathrooms. Thoughts on the subject is that students already have access to their Chrome books throughout the day. Why do they need them during instruction time? If they need to communicate or surf the internet they will find a way.

A discussion was had on an upcoming bill introduced by Senator Robinson about cell phones in schools. This bill is likely going to pass on 1/26/26. Basically, it will put the decision back on the districts and not a state mandate.

Questions like: Do we check lockers, or backpacks at the MS & HS? Can we remove a phone from a student? Do we use a positive approach to discipline? Dr. Howard explained Policy # 237 Electronic Devices and how it is administered. (see Board docs for the policy)

Why do students even have cell phones with them? Some use it at afterschool activities, in between classes, and their lunch periods. Sometimes it is a parent's want for them to have them on their person in case of an emergency.

In today's society of having a phone available at all times, when you take it away from a student they could have a large social/emotional impact.

Some members of the committee stated that technology is widely used at the college level so allowing cell phone use at HS level prepares students for the future.

The committee also felt that teachers should show respect and responsibility by not using or looking at their cell phones during instruction time. In other words, LEAD BY EXAMPLE!

Many comments both for and against the use of cell phones during the school day. 71% of the committee was against having cell phones available during the entire day with the other 29% wanting the cell phones available and on the student all day.

Discussions were had about how you would keep the cell phones away from the students during instruction time. One option was to have the phone put in lockers at the start of the day in the front of the building with access only at the end of the day. This could lead to congestion and time delays to get to their class rooms. Another option was having the teacher collect them in each class and put in a designated area until instruction was completed. This would mean each class room would have to have a cubby system or some way of storing them. This would have to be implemented across the entire school.

This brought up a discussion on who is liable if someone's phone gets stolen or broken? How much extra time would this take away from the teacher getting down to their lesson plans?

Dr Ayers brought in a magnetic bag that a cell phone could be put in and it would block all signals from the phone. No ringing, binging, etc. Several were purchased with grant funds. Again how or who would monitor these bags and who should they be issued to. Whatever decision we use we must consider safety and cost factor.

So many questions with no clear answer.

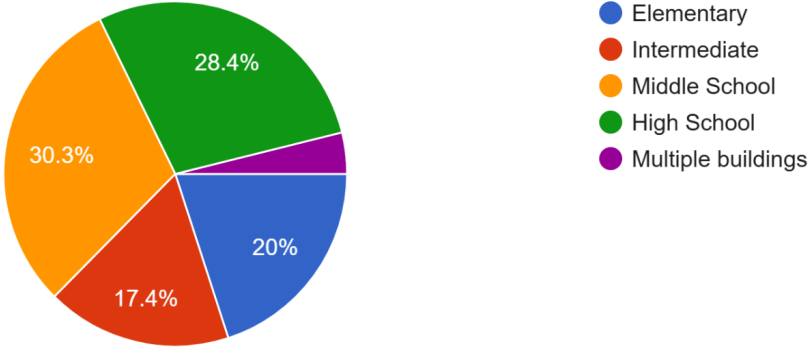
Next Meeting: Wednesday February 7, 2026 6:30 - 7:30PM

Next Topic: TBD at a later date

# Faculty Survey on Student Cellphone Policy and Usage (January 2025)

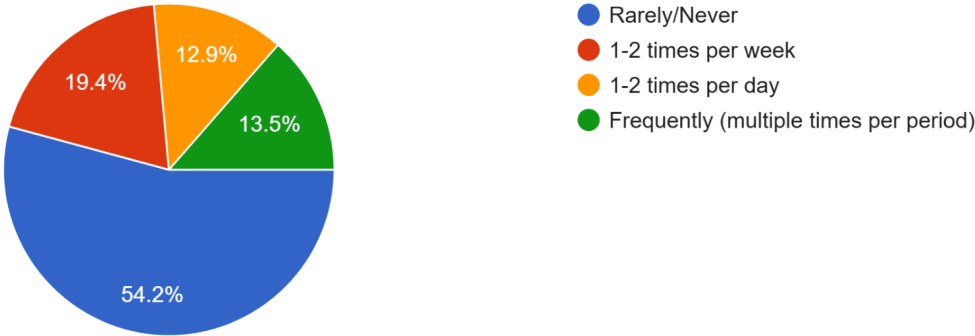
What grade level do you teach?

155 responses



How often do you have to interrupt a lesson to address unauthorized cellphone use?

155 responses



In your observation, what is the primary way students use phones in class?

155 responses



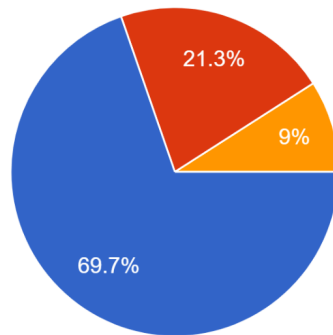
Where do you require students to keep their phones during class?

155 responses



### Which of the following policies would you most support?

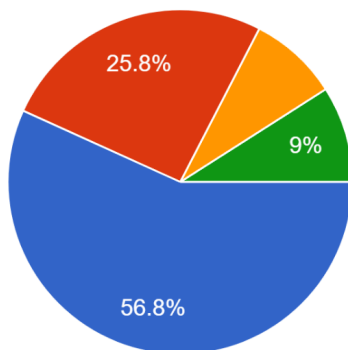
155 responses



- "Away for the Day": Phones are locked in lockers/pouches from arrival to dismissal.
- "Bell-to-Bell": No phones allowed during class, but permitted during lunch/passing periods.
- "Teacher Discretion": Individual teachers decide when phones are allowed in the classroom.
- "Full Integration": Students are encouraged to use phones for learning.

### Do you believe a total ban on cellphones would improve overall student academic performance?

155 responses



- Yes, significantly
- Yes, slightly
- No, it would have no impact
- No, it would have a negative impact