

Cell Phone Survey Results

Madison Public Schools

February 2026



K-12 Results



We received
1,269 survey
responses.

K-5: 525, 48%

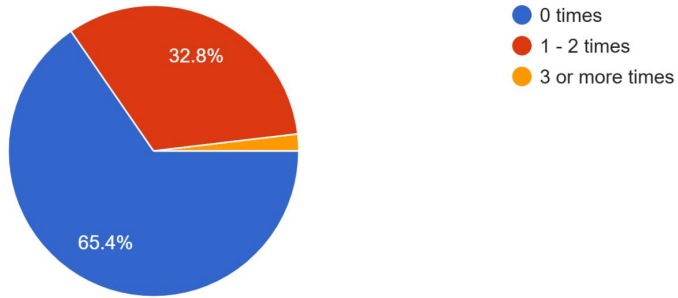
6-8: 348, 62%

9-12: 396, 55%

52% of respondents said their student has a cell phone. Of students with phones, **95%** have a smartphone.

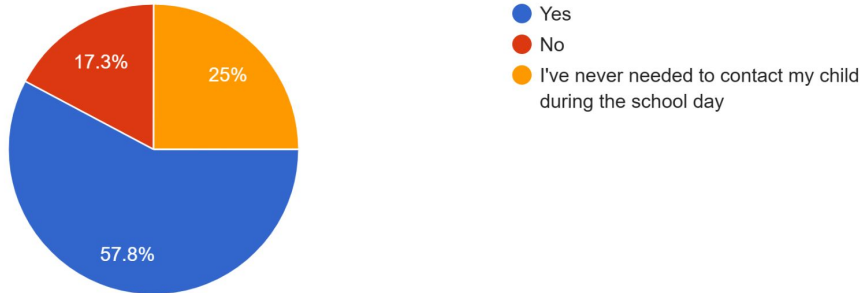
7. During a typical school day, how many times a day do you contact your student by cell phone (e.g., text messages, phone calls)?

693 responses



8. If students had greater phone restrictions, do you feel you could reach your student in a timely manner during the school day when needed?

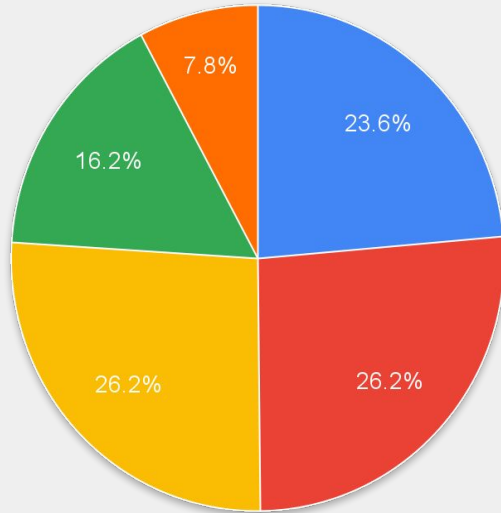
1,269 responses



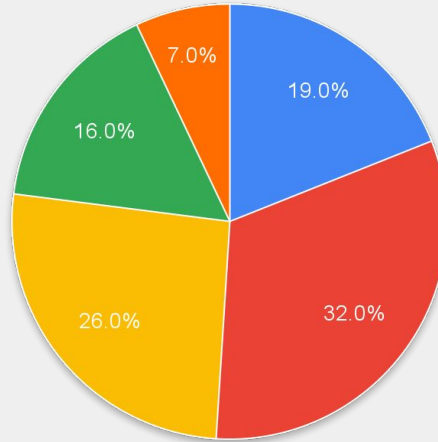
89% of Parents said they allow their student to bring their phone to school and **81%** of parents said they discuss school cell phone rules with their student.

Overall, how satisfied are you with your school's phone policy?

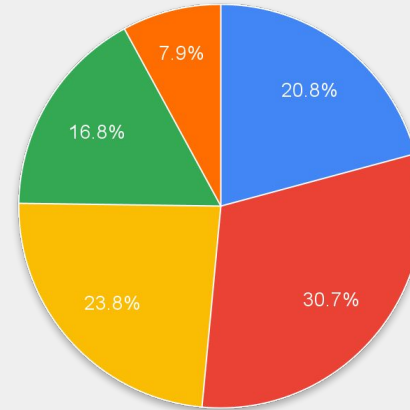
District Results



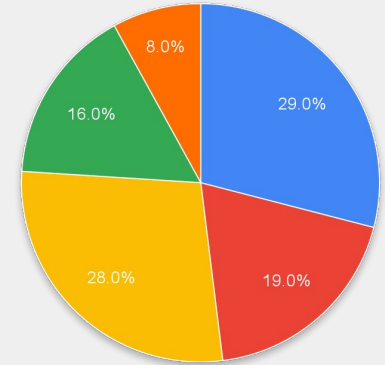
DHHS Results



Polson Results



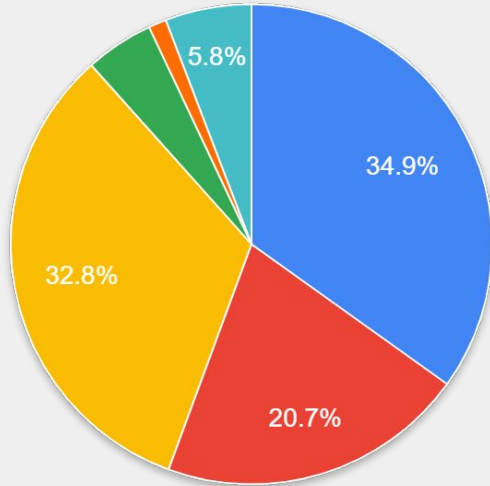
K-5 Results



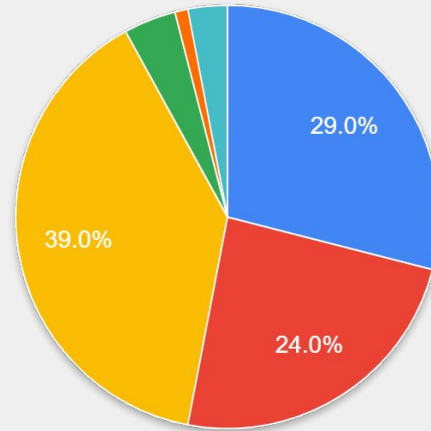
Very satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied

In your opinion, should your school's phone policy be more or less restrictive than it is now?

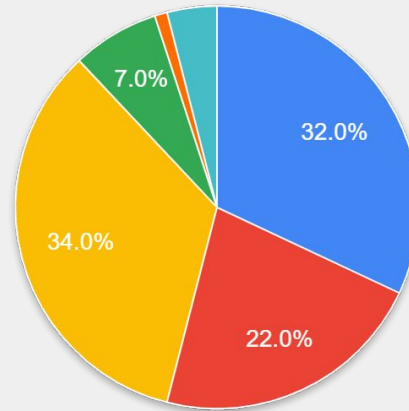
District Results



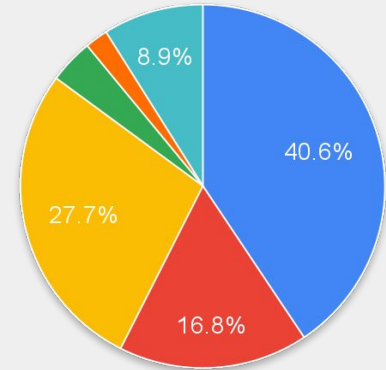
DHHS Results



Polson Results



K-5 Results



● The policy should be much more restrictive ● The policy should be a little more restrictive ● The policy is just right ● The policy should be a little less restrictive
● The policy should be much less restrictive ● I don't know

Survey Results

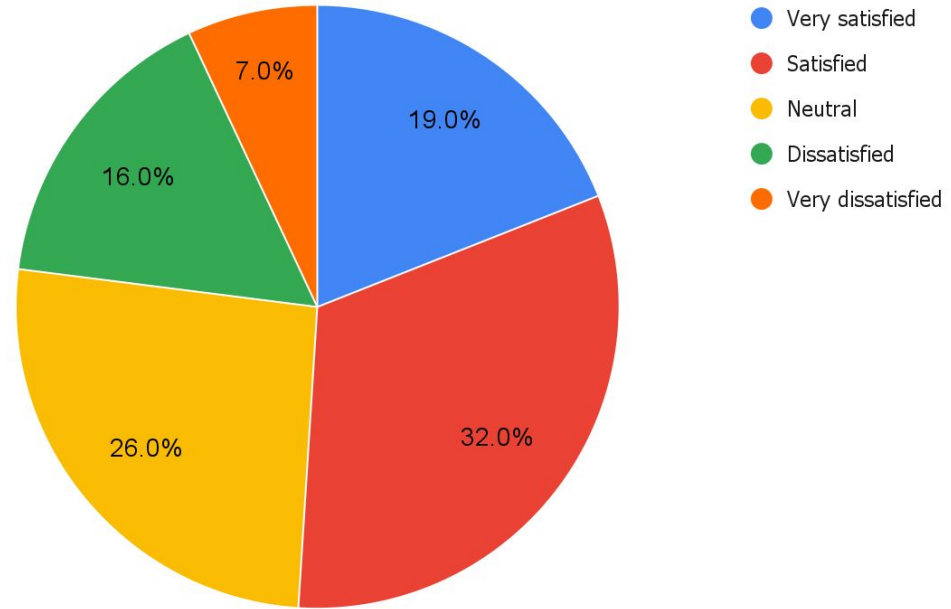
DHHS Data

We surveyed DHHS
parents/guardians,
teachers, and students.



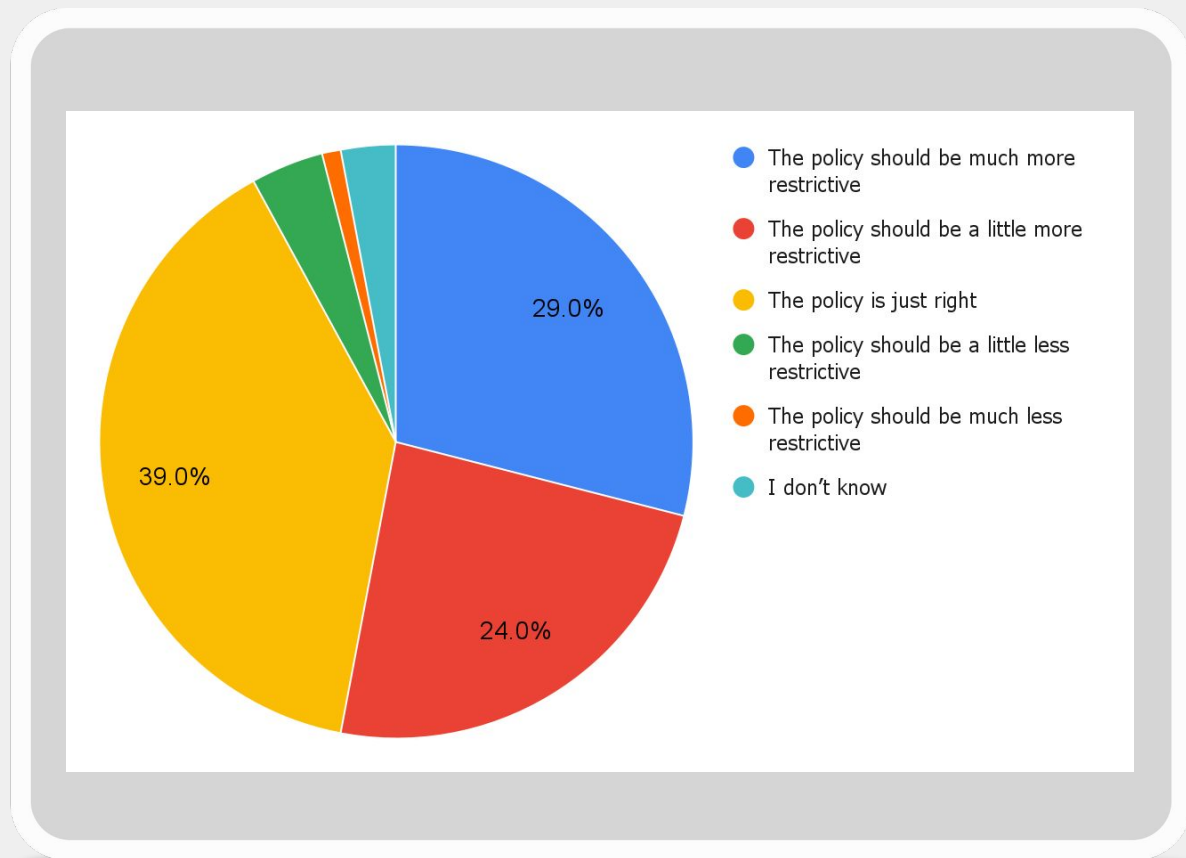
Parents & Guardians

Overall, how satisfied are you with your school's phone policy?



Parents & Guardians

In your opinion, should your school's phone policy be more or less restrictive than it is now?





Teachers

- **78** DHHS Teachers completed the survey.
- **50%** said teachers enforce the phone policy most of the time and **36%** said half of the time.
- **44%** said they are somewhat satisfied with the current policy, **26%** said they are satisfied, and **12%** said very satisfied.
- **40%** said they believe less than 10 percent of students are using phones when they shouldn't, **26%** said less than 25 percent of students.

What challenges have you faced with implementing and/or enforcing the current phone policy?

“No major challenges. I ask my students to place their phones in a phone bin. While I have to check it everyday before the start of class, I find the freshman & sophomores follow through with it decently. The seniors are not as happy to follow through with it, but they do it when asked.”

“Inconsistency from teachers implementing the policy, parents texting kids in classes and kids thinking it’s ok to take out their phones, student addiction to phones (they do it without even realize they’re doing it).”

“With the use of a phone holder enforcing/implementing the current policy is reasonable with little to no challenges. When students keep their phones on them the challenge is much greater as they struggle to ignore the distraction.”

Do you have any suggestions for overcoming those challenges?

“I think a universal approach where teachers collect cell phones in a holder at the start of class would be helpful. My department started that this year and it was very helpful.”

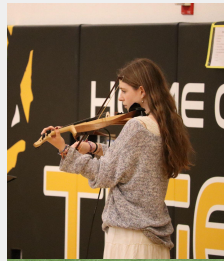
“Honestly, I like the phone bin for my classroom; I don't mind checking it at the start of class. I don't want a policy that makes it so that students cannot have phones in the hallways between classes, or in others classes where it makes sense for them to have it. I don't want a policy that is too restrictive.”

“Let parents police phone use... If a student is on their phone constantly and doesn't perform well, that is on the student. My degree wasn't in policing, it was in [insert subject here]. I'd like to be able to focus on my own subject.”

Students

We shared the survey with all students in grades 9-11 during advisory.

456 students responded, a 84% response rate.



98.5% of students said they have a cell phone. Of students with phones, **99.8%** have a smartphone.

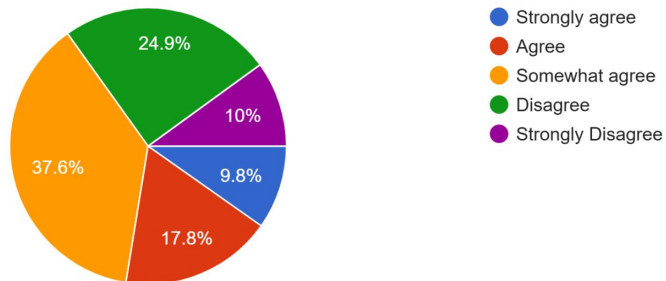
65.4% of students said they spent less than an hour a day on their phone at school and **28.2%** said they spend 1-2 hours.

56.2% of students said their parents contact them 1-2 times during a single school day, and **35.7%** said their parents contact them 3 or more times during the school day.

47% of students with a job said their boss contacts them 1-2 times a week during the school day

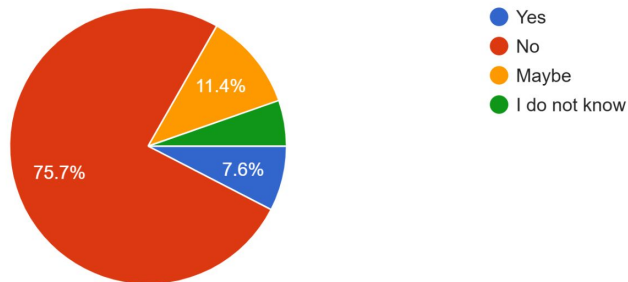
5. Please rate your agreement with this statement: "I feel worried about missing out on things when I don't have access to my phone."

450 responses



8. Do you feel you would be able to contact your parent(s)/ guardian(s) in a timely manner when you need to during the school day if you didn't have a cell phone?

448 responses

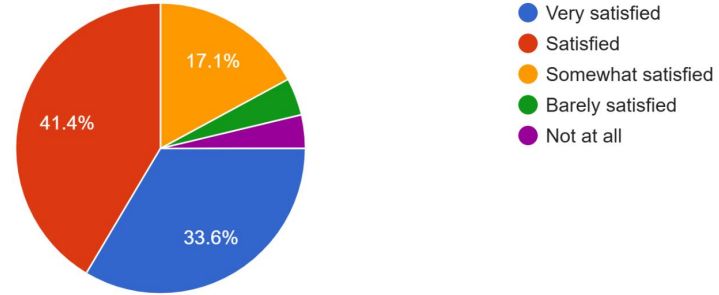


Phone Policy Questions

Over **85%** of students believe they and their peers follow the phone policy most if not all the time.

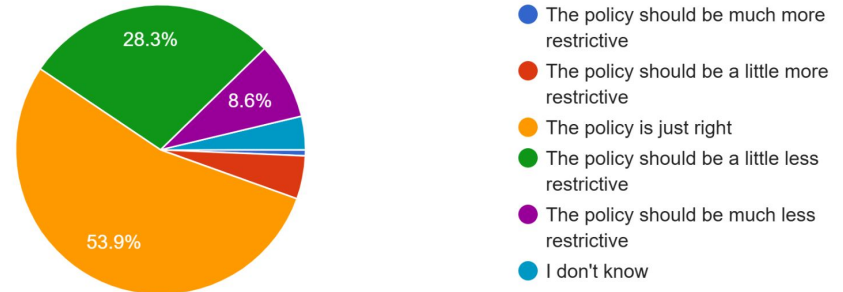
9. How satisfied are you with your school's current phone policy?

456 responses



12. In your opinion, should your school's phone policy be more or less restrictive than it is now?

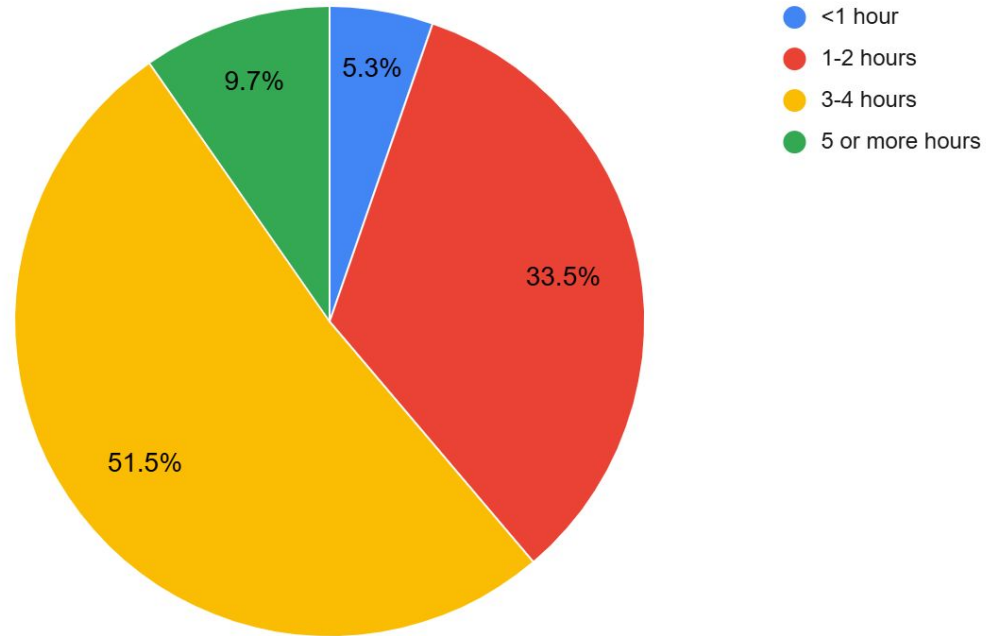
456 responses



Outside of School Questions

74% of students said they sleep with their phone in their room.

51.5% of students said they spend 3-4 hours on their phone outside of school.



Students, is there anything else you would like to tell us?

“I feel very strongly that the current cell phone policy is working. While there may be some people who may not follow the rules as well as others do, I believe that more restriction to cell phone use would not solve the problem.”

“I sleep with my phone in my room to listen to Rain Sounds. DO NOT BAN PHONES, It will just make people angry.”

“My parents contact me a lot in the day, which is very helpful for communication on how i’m getting home if I have clubs, sports, etc.”

“the cell phones are a part of our generation and i think that it is important that we learn how to incorporate them positively into our daily life instead of enforcing restrictions when not necessary.”

“I like the policy as it is. Most teachers take our phones away in class anyways so we don’t even have access to it”

“I want my phone. I don’t feel safe without it especially with what’s going on in the world right now.”

“We shouldn’t get our phones taken because we need to learn how to independently discipline ourselves because in college they don’t take our phones, and it is up to us to pay attention and do our work in lectures and classes.”

“Stricter rules cause kids to be more sneaky. Our current policy gives us a sense of independence and freedom while still ensuring there isn’t a use of phones during class time.”

Next Steps: Legislative Agenda

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Proposed Bill No. 580

LCO No. 962



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

SEN. MARTIN, 31st Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MODEL POLICY BANNING THE USE OF CELLULAR MOBILE TELEPHONES IN SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to require the Department of
- 2 Education to establish a model policy banning the use of cellular mobile
- 3 telephones during the school day for students in grades kindergarten to
- 4 twelve, inclusive.

Statement of Purpose:

To require the establishment of a model policy banning the use of cellular mobile telephones by students during the school day.

“Help your teacher teach – read to your child at night. And turn off the damn smart phone. I used to carp that smartphones make you stupid.

Social media can also feed a sense of isolation, persecution, and anger – a dangerous psychological cocktail.

Connecticut was a leader in getting these phones out of the classroom. Let’s go one step further – no phones bell to bell in any of our schools, and let’s work with our neighboring states in requiring that no child under the age of 18 has access to these dangerous apps without parental permission.”

- Governor Ned Lamont, *State of the State Address*, February 4, 2026

Any questions?