



TRACY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"The future belongs
to the educated"*

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May 12, 2026

Via Parent Square

Re: Cell Phone Laws Starting 2026-2027

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In accordance with California's new Phone-Free Schools Act (AB 3216) which goes into effect on July 1, 2026, our district will implement a Phone-Free Classroom Policy. This policy is intended to support student learning, minimize distractions during instructional time, and promote a positive school environment.

Students in 6th – 12th grade may continue to bring cell phones and personal mobile devices to school; however, devices must remain turned off and stored in the classroom cell phone locker during instructional periods unless specifically permitted by school staff. (For grades TK-5, the rules remain the same: cell phones must be turned off and remain in their backpacks).

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Improve student focus, engagement, and participation during instruction
- Reduce classroom distractions and interruptions
- Support student mental health and positive peer interactions
- Ensure consistency and fairness across classrooms
- Maintain compliance with California law

Students may use their devices only under the following circumstances:

- During an emergency situation
- When authorized by a teacher or administrator for instructional or educational purposes

To help students adjust to this expectation, the school will use progressive consequences for policy violations:

First Offense:

Verbal warning; device collected until the end of the class period (documented referral)

Second Offense:

Device confiscated for the remainder of the school day; student may pick it up after school

Third Offense:

Parent/guardian contact; device confiscated for the remainder of the school day

Fourth Offense:

Parent/guardian contact and detention (lunch or after school)

Fifth Offense:
Parent/guardian contact and alternate administrative placement

Further Offenses:
Social probation for 3, 6, or 9 weeks

Offense counts will reset at the beginning of each semester; however, any social probation assigned will continue into the next semester if applicable.

We appreciate your partnership and support as we work together to create a focused, respectful, and engaging learning environment for all students. If you have questions regarding this policy, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jason Noll, Director
Student Services Department
Tracy Unified School District