

Students & Telecommunication Device Update

June 25, 2026

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ISSAQUAH
SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Purpose

Update the board on the first year of implementation of the district's cell phone/personal device policy (Regulation 3245).



Regulation 3245: Students and Telecommunication Devices

Elementary School (K-5)

- **Devices OFF and AWAY** during the school day and on school buses unless authorized by school personnel.

Middle School (6-8)

- **Devices SILENCED AND STOWED** in backpacks or placed in teacher-designated locations at the beginning of each class period and remain stowed until the end of the class period. Extends to hallways and common areas while class is in session.

High School (9-12)

- **Devices SILENCED AND STOWED** in backpacks or placed in teacher-designated locations at the beginning of each class period, and remain stowed until the end of the class period. Extends to hallways and common areas while class is in session.
- Students may access devices during non-instructional times (including before and after school, during passing periods, and at their designated lunch time).

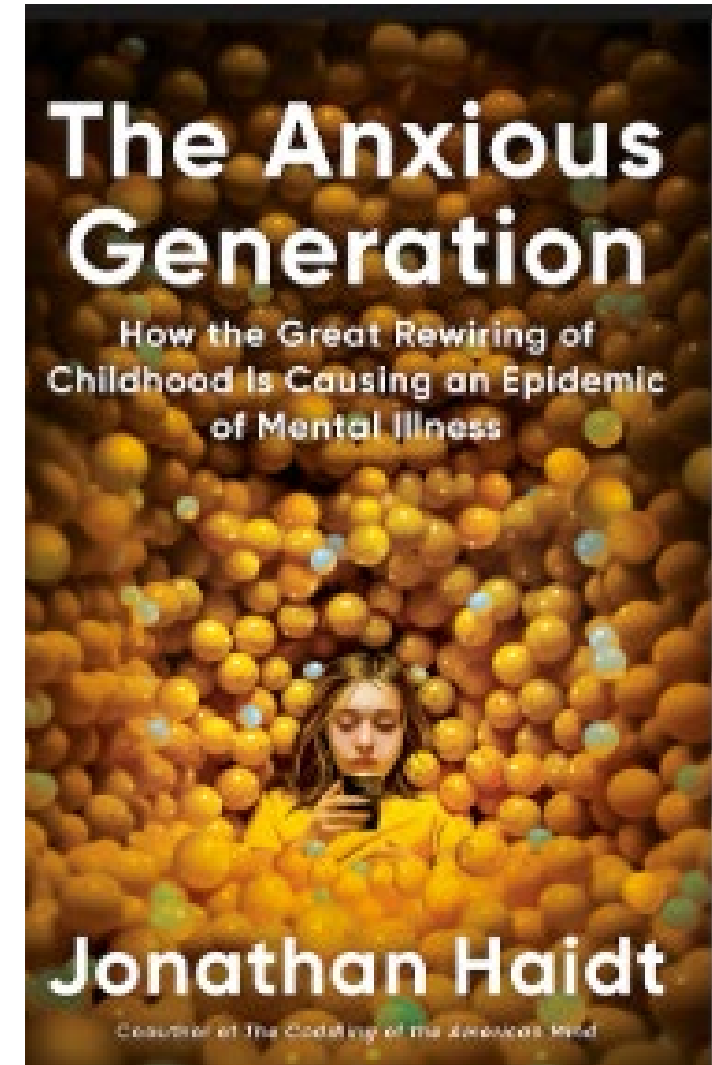
Regulation 3245: Purpose and Mental Health Focus

Issaquah School District ensures all students have access to learning technology, while placing limits on personal electronic devices to support and protect student well-being.

May 29, 2025 Board Meeting

Engagement

- All district administrators studied Johnathan Heidt's "Anxious Generation" research or watched *The Social Dilemma* to ground implementation for the year.
- District leaders met with PTSA Leadership, PTSA General Membership, hosted a community conversation, and engaged in three meetings with the superintendent's student leadership group.



Student Feedback

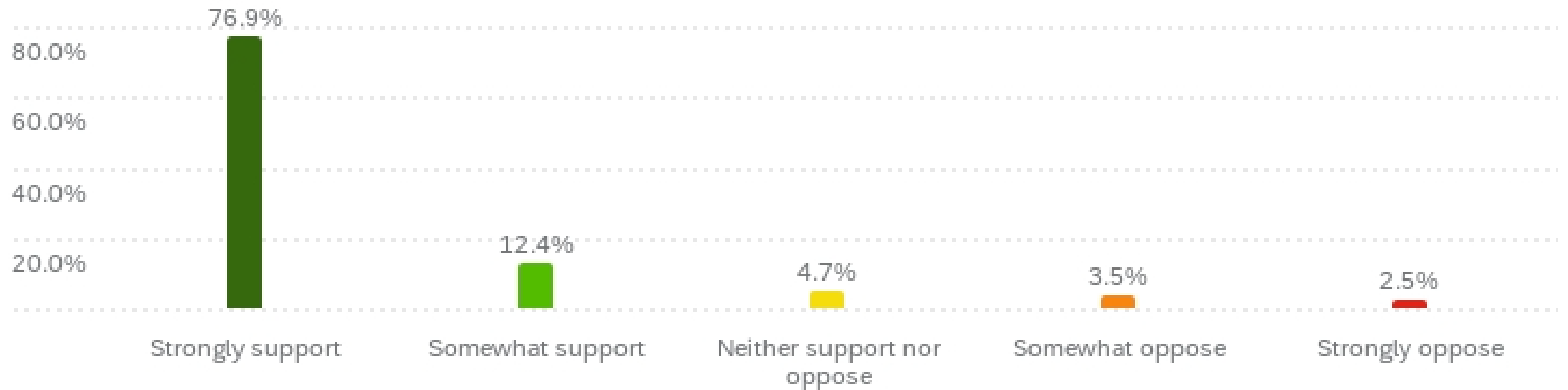
- Students indicated that they understand the research behind cell phone restrictions and the negative impacts on focus and mental health.
- After a peak in September, referrals for use of cell phones during class time declined throughout the year.
- High school student leaders expressed support for the current policy, but did not want to pursue an away for the day cell phone restriction.

Staff Feedback

- Cell phone caddies have increased students' focus on learning, especially when out of sight.
- Progressive discipline and education, along with family partnership, are utilized to help students refrain from future cell phone use.
- In high school, the main remaining challenge is the unapproved use of cell phones in the hallway during class time. The use of electronic hall passes has assisted in tracking this time out of class.

Family Feedback

How strongly do you support a policy that bans cell phone use during the school day? 2,581



Related Student Outcomes

As shared in Results 1, students' sense of belonging at school increased this past year.

“% of students who report feeling a sense of belonging or fitting in at school.”

Indicator	Group	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Sense of Belonging	All	75%	79%	▲ +4.0 pts

Related Student Outcomes

Per the 2025 Healthy Youth Survey, screen time use has decreased over the past two years.

<i>Healthy Youth Survey</i>		6 th grade	8 th grade	10 th grade	12 th grade
<i>3+ hours of screen time per day Q88</i>	2021	20.9%	24%	22.1%	23.4%
	2023	34.7%	51.2%	68.6%	71.5%
	2025	29.5% decreasing	46% decreasing	59.6% decreasing	N/A
	2025 n	1214	531	436	N/A

Behavior data

- A review of SWIS and Skyward referral data shows:
 - Overall low numbers of incidences across elementary, middle, and high schools.
 - More incidences at the high school level, as more students have cell phones, however, the number of incidents are declining over time.

Next Steps

- Continue to strengthen ongoing student engagement in personal device expectations, especially after breaks.
- Stay updated on the Governor's *Away for the Day* proposal to be implemented in Fall 2027.
- Collect data on classroom screen time use across the district to inform further guidance on use of technology in instruction.



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