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July 1, 2026

Dear Norwalk-La Mirada Unified Families,

On June 8, 2026, the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Board of Education adopted Board Policy 5131.8, establishing consistent expectations for student use of mobile communication devices across all District schools. The policy aligns with [California's Phone-Free School Act \(Assembly Bill 3216\)](#) and reflects our commitment to creating focused, safe, and engaging learning environments for every student.

Research continues to show that reducing distractions from personal devices helps students remain engaged in learning, strengthens face-to-face interactions with peers and staff, and supports student well-being. This policy is designed to maximize instructional time while ensuring students continue to have access to support and communication when needed.

Here are some highlights of [Board Policy 5131.8](#) as well as the [Rules and Regulations](#):

- Mobile communication devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during the school day, which is defined as the first bell to final bell. This includes cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, headphones, AirPods, tablets, gaming devices, smart glasses, and similar technology.
- Devices should remain stored in backpacks or designated areas unless specifically authorized by school staff or site administration.
- Students with accommodations outlined in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or documented medical necessity will continue to have access to approved devices as required.
- A progressive discipline process will be used if students do not follow the policy, beginning with device confiscation and increasing consequences for repeated violations. Parents or guardians will be involved as needed throughout the process.
- Serious misuse of devices, including recording others without permission, cyberbullying, harassment, or using devices in restrooms or locker rooms, will result in immediate administrative action.
- In an emergency, students may use mobile communication devices when directed by staff or when necessary to ensure their personal safety. Schools will continue to use established emergency notification systems to communicate with families. Students who need to contact a parent or guardian during the school day may do so through the school office.

As with any new districtwide initiative, we recognize that implementing this policy will require partnership between our schools and families. Throughout the summer, our staff will continue preparing for a successful

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rollout by providing training, establishing consistent procedures across campuses, and ensuring students and families understand the new expectations before the first day of school.

We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible. Our goal is not simply to limit device use, but to create classrooms where students are fully engaged in learning, build stronger relationships with one another, and experience fewer distractions throughout the school day.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work together to provide the best possible learning environment for every student.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Cancio
President, Board of Education

Tania Magaña
Superintendent