

BP 5131.8

Cell Phone Policy Presentation

April 8, 2026

Purpose

AB 3216:

adopt policies that restrict or prohibit student use of smartphones

- minimize in-class distractions,
- improve student focus and academic performance, and
- address student mental health concerns exacerbated by cell phones

Community Engagement

Students

Panorama Surveys: Spring 2025, Fall 2025

Discussions with Student Advisory Council

Staff

Panorama Surveys: Spring 2025

Policy Options Survey: Fall, 2025

Parents

Youth Truth Survey, January 2025

SART: Fall, 2025

Pilot Programs

Santa Rosa HS, 24-26

7th–8th

Instructional Time and Lunch:

All phones off and stored away

Before and After School

Phones allowed

Progressive Consequences

- Warnings
- Parent meetings
- Loss of phone privileges

9th - 12th

At Teacher's Discretion

Montgomery HS, 24-26

7th–8th

Instructional Time and Lunch:

Phones only before and after school, brunch and lunch. Policy includes earbuds/headphones

Progressive Consequences

- Warnings
- Parent meetings
- Loss of phone privileges

9th - 12th

Phones only before and after school, brunch and lunch.

Policy includes earbuds/headphones

Lessons learned

Montgomery HS, 24-26

Lessons Learned

Having all teachers on board creates a more effective implementation

Santa Rosa HS, 24-26

Lessons Learned:

A consistent policy district wide will assist with site-based implementation and allow schools to balance the gap between individual student need and the needs of the campus.

Student Perspective on Current Cell Phone Policies

The relationship between cell phones and safety is complicated: they serve as a powerful lifeline during emergencies, but also introduce conflicts in social media realms.

The rules seem fine about **phones** , the only **problem** is keeping **students** engaged so that they do not feel bored and go on their **phones**.

I believe that this can help me not get tempted to use my **phone** in the middle of **class** , although there are some **classes** that are more lenient with this **rule** . I find that **teachers** who enforce the no **phone rule** in their **class** are the **classes** I am most successful at and the most proficient.

Most of the **time** it **helps** me, but it can get distracting from **time** to **time** .

puedes ayudar ,
en ciertas cosas
pero tambien
perjudican

New Policy Permits Use:

- Emergency, threat or danger
- Teacher/Staff permission
- Well being of student per doctor
- By direction in the IEP, 504, or health plans



Options

Option 1

**Use only during
non-instructional time**

Option 2

No use at school

Option 3

Transitional Option

25-26 School year

Secondary: Use only at non-instructional time

Elementary: No use at school

26-27 School year

All Students shall not use phones or devices while at school

Questions?

Appendix

Suggested Board Policy

Student Survey

impact of cellphones at school

secondary respondents:

47% of students felt that student cellphones help their learning;

57% of students felt that student cell phones help school safety; and

54% felt that student cell phones help friendships in school.

elementary respondents:

25% of students felt that student cellphones help their learning;

31% of students felt that student cell phones help school safety; and

27% felt that student cell phones help friendships in school.

Student Survey

Policy Implementation

In secondary respondents:

52% of students felt that school rules about student cell phones are clear;
26% of students felt that students follow the school rules about cell phones; and
58% of students felt that adults are likely to enforce cell phones policies.

From elementary respondents:

64% of students felt that school rules about student cell phones are clear;
41% of students felt that students follow the school rules about cell phones; and
67% of students felt that adults are likely to enforce cell phones policies.

Staff Survey

impact of cellphones at school

4% of staff who responded felt that student cellphones help their learning;
6% of staff who responded felt that student cell phones help school safety; and
6% of staff who responded felt that student cell phones help friendships in school.

Policy Implementation

67% of staff who responded felt that school rules about student cell phones are clear;
44% of staff who responded felt that students follow the school rules about cell phones; and
54% of staff who responded felt that adults are likely to enforce cell phones policies.

StopIt

Incident By Type

