



LAMOILLE SOUTH SUPERVISORY UNION

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May 2, 2025

Good afternoon,

For the record, my name is Ryan Heraty and I am the Superintendent of Lamoille South, which includes the towns of Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe. Today, I am providing testimony regarding House Bill [H.54](#), a proposal prohibiting cell phones and electronic devices in Vermont schools. I am speaking today for our two districts and on behalf of the Vermont Superintendents Association.

Over the past year, our supervisory union has introduced a policy similar to what is being proposed. This policy prohibits cell phones and personal electronic devices from our schools during school hours and requires students to have the phones in their lockers or a secured location agreed to by the principal. This policy has been a resounding success, and in combination with several other district-wide efforts, we have noted the following:

- Improved academic performance
- Increased student engagement
- Reduced incidents of hazing, harassment, and bullying
- High levels of employee retention/satisfaction
- More socialization and reduced student anxiety
- Less power struggles and more focus on teaching and learning

Although I have a great deal to say on this topic, it may be more powerful for you to read the comments that were provided by our faculty in a survey we administered earlier this week. I have attached those documents to this testimony for your review.

One perspective that I will share is from a conversation I had with a teacher earlier this week. I asked the high school teacher what her experience has been with the new policy. She started to tear up and explained that it has resulted in her loving her job again. She admitted that just a few years prior, she was wondering if she really wanted to stay in education. The pandemic was really hard and behavior (including cell phones) had become such an issue it was taking the joy out of teaching. She said this year, she eagerly signed her contract and is looking forward to many years ahead. Of course, there are many factors that contribute to such a sense of pride and value in your work. However, if there is something we can do to support teachers and encourage more to stay in the classrooms, we should do it. The number one influence on student achievement is the teacher and we can never forget that.

Implementation

To implement this policy, there were several critical steps that should be considered by any district moving in this direction:

1. Survey families and faculty/staff to determine the level of stakeholder support.
2. Determine clear expectations and consequences. Keep these consistent throughout all schools and educate students early and often.
3. Provide detailed information to students and families with extensive research explaining why the district is adopting the policy.
4. Ensure consistent implementation across all schools and leverage a team approach.
5. Survey families/employees and share the results before and after implementation.

Thank you for this opportunity and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Heraty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ryan Heraty
Superintendent

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
Students are interacting socially during their free time (including lunch) and they are far more focused during class since they cannot use a cell phone as a distraction.	The policy should come from the district (not individual schools), and the consequences for violating the policy should be adhered to / taken seriously.
It has been transformative, especially for students who struggle with anxiety.	Only considerations I've run into are related to equity... some students have better capacity than others for parents to come pick up devices on the 2nd offense. But, overall it's been extremely worthwhile and I've had 100% support from parents as I've contacted home regarding violations.
Students are more engaged in conversations during down time. There is less of a chance of anyone making an embarrassing video. Students do need to spend more time in the office communicating with adults etc.	I think the biggest area to consider is where the phones are kept each day. I think in a backpack or locker works at our school but might not at others.
The students are much more focused on their schoolwork and they develop stronger personal bonds with peers. There are no longer distractions due to checking cell phones incessantly, and the potential for cyber-bullying is eliminated.	Do it! It is the best thing that has happened to our school in years.
Kids are more engaged both in school and with each other when devices are removed. However, workarounds on personal computer devices are now common place and should be looked at going forward.	Zero Tolerance with clearly defined steps of accountability/enforcement that is not on teachers/support staff to enforce (keeps their energies on teaching!) is key. I do think personal device workarounds are the key next step for our district and should be addressed by legislation if reasonable/feasible.
Yes in a positive way	classes that uses phones for photography and creation of videos will need a budget for purchasing cameras... OR simply allow kids to use their phones because it is SO MUCH easier than using the cameras - Also the APPs on the phones are so easy to use vs on chromebooks (some of these apps do not exist on chrome books)
Reduced overall distractions and increased focus and productivity.	Making sure they have buy in from staff.
It has been a Godsend. I would like to see more uniform enforcement because I think there is a little deviation, but largely this has made an immeasurable impact on our atmosphere.	Uniformity. United front. What works for some works for everyone. If the adults stand united, then the policy will work. I know of schools that tried enacting a phone policy but gave up after a couple of months because not everyone would enforce it.
Very positively! Students are more cooperative and they are improving social emotional skills throughout the school day.	A policy like this enforced district wide, was very effective. Also, the education and communication before implementation worked well.

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
<p>While there is a undeniable prevalence of students carrying their personal devices on their person (despite the expectation being devices should be in cars or lockers), there has been a significant increase in students communicating face-to-face (particularly during lunch). However, I have been noticing a large number of students using screen sharing apps on their personal laptops to access their cell phones without having them out.</p> <p>Yes, in only positive ways. Students are actually reading and studying together in the library again.</p>	<p>Not allowing personal laptops (only school-issued devices) would allow for the management of apps and not allow students to use screen sharing apps to access their cell phones. A clear and consistent set of expectations and consequences is essential to the success of any new policy.</p>
<p>Student engagement is much higher than in past years. Students are interacting with each other much more, especially at lunch time.</p>	<p>Consider the long-term consequences on young people of not implementing a statewide policy.</p>
<p>It has been an amazing shift and so beneficial to our students and our school culture. Students are much more engaged and social during their free times when they used to be looking at their phones. They have gotten braver and more willing to participate in large school events since there is no longer a chance of them being recorded.</p>	<p>I think the hardest part of this policy has been the bluetooth headphones. Sometimes, I want to assign a video for students to watch independently but not all students have headphones that can plug in or a computer with a headphone jack. This has also been a struggle for some students during their study hall time.</p>
<p>Since implementing a school wide cell phone/electronics policy, Stowe High School has experienced a significant shift in how students socialize, communicate and focus academically. The genuine interactions that take place in classrooms, the cafeteria, and common spaces on campus are clearly visible and have made a positive impact on students, staff, and faculty.</p>	<p>They should consider strong messaging to parents and absolutely no exceptions. The stricter and more clear the policy, the better.</p>
<p>It has been an unbelievable game changer as far as disciplinary reports, student focus and engagement, depth of relationships as well as overall student happiness.</p>	<p>I believe the success we have experienced this year regarding the elimination of cell phones and other personal electronic devices is due to several key factors: clearly communicated rules/expectations to the entire school community prior to the start of the school year, data collection via family surveys to ensure support and feedback, and all staff applying the rules, expectations and consequences both consistently and fairly.</p>
<p>Yes- in a good way although students have found ways to hide their phones on them.</p>	<p>This as well as parent education around compliance, parents tend to be the ones texting as well as fighting for their kid to have the phone in school.</p>
	<p>Invest in cell phone bags where students have to lock their phones in a bag for the day so they actually cannot access them. Have a no backpack policy so students can't hide them in their backpacks.</p>

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
<p>It has been a transformative experience. I don't have to police phones all day or have power struggles over them. At lunch students talk to each other. In studyhall students choose other activities like books or word games rather than scrolling through their phones. And most importantly, students don't rush through learning so they can mindlessly stare at their phone because they are "done their work and bored."</p>	<p>Keep it as simple and clear as possible so that it is easy for everyone to follow consistently. Get the adults in the building to buy in to the policy as well. For example, as a teacher I keep my phone away for the day. People in my life know to call the school directly if there is an emergency. I know this can be harder for some adults with young children, but as much as possible the adults in the building should model the same behavior we expect from our students.</p>
<p>Limiting cell phones (and other device use) has greatly improved student engagement in class. It also eliminates the need for teachers to spend time policing cell phones. Student behavior has also improved as well as student emotional wellness. We are still finding instances of students "sneaking" cell phones out in the bathrooms so a stronger ban would be helpful.</p>	<p>Teachers do not need to be the device police. A strong policy needs to be clear about what's allowed and what's not allowed. Our policy says that phones must be in lockers, but students still carry phones on their person. Our policy says no smart watches but our students still have (and use) smart watches. Our policy says not air buds or wireless headphones, but our students still use these things. Schools (and the state) need to clearly define what is and is not allowed and then that policy needs to be strictly enforced. Consequences for violations should be clearly defined and published.</p>
<p>I have only been working in education for about 5 months but the lack of cell phones/personal devices seems to be extremely advantageous to educators trying to do their job.</p> <p>Students are more focused during the school day. No longer are they distracted by their Apple watches or their phones buzzing. They also no longer ask to go to their lockers and to the bathroom, where they historically snuck phone use during the school day.</p>	<p>I have not been in this field long enough for a valuable answer to this question, in my opinion.</p> <p>In a system where almost all policy changes are complicated and have difficult pros and cons, this policy change is an easy one. Students benefit from increased focus, and teachers can provide a more rich and rigorous program when students are more focused.</p>
<p>Students are less distracted and more focused on their academic work. There are zero power struggles about student phone use with a clear policy in place.</p>	<p>Students cannot self-regulate phone use. They have not developed the skills of self-regulation to adequately combat the dopamine feedback they get from checking their phones. Also, students are not able to cope with the constant barrage of feedback from their peers in the form of messaging and social media. School should be a safe haven for learning and reinforcing self-worth. A no-phone policy supports students growth in a fundamental way, and creates a learning environment that is conducive to focus over distraction.</p>

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
<p>Teachers are still policing the policy but I believe it is so worth it as there is a lot of learning going on!!!. I collect only one or two phones daily.</p>	<p>Be prepared to stay on top of it. Set clear expectations and be aware that you MUST call out any student who is in violation. At the middle school level, we are committed to making sure all phones are not used during the school day. At the high school level, I still see students hiding to use their phones in the hallways and bathroom. In the end, it is so worth it to not have students use their devices at school and so worth the battle.</p>
<p>It has allowed our students to focus on studies and in person communication. Amazing to watch the difference in the connections students are making with each other and adults.</p> <p>90% positive...cell phones are no longer an "obvious" distraction in the classroomlunch room/etc because the policy is ENFORCED by faculty and staff.</p> <p>However, recently noticing uptick in "earbuds" and hoodies... keeping a close eye. I also "stop into" girls' bathrooms on occasion to assure that it's. not a gathering spot for cell phone use...and it has been. Thus, I've taken the phones and turned them into the office. Not a major issue but cell phones ARE still being used in SHS.</p>	<p>Positive feedback to students as they adjust to no phones. Consider the positives of the connections we all make without Kendraphones!!</p> <p>Faculty/Staff must be on board with rationale behind any policy and strict enforcement procedures. (Administration can determine if use was warranted/necessary...) Also, faculty use of cell phones should also not be a classroom event.</p>
<p>Our new policy for cell phone/personal devices has had a range of benefits to the school community that have positively impacted safety, academics, and social connectedness. When students had access to their phones during school hours, it created countless distractions, but also created fears among students that they would be photographed/recorded when they didn't want to be. You can imagine the social and academic limitations this can place on a teenager who doesn't want to be "caught" doing something or saying something that would negatively impact their image. Academically, students are more focused and engaged in their academics when their attention is not competing with their devices. Lastly, students are engaging socially in healthy and natural ways, whether it's in the cafeteria, hallway, or any other learning environment, they look to one another instead of their device.</p>	<p>This policy was created based on concerns that the community raised through surveys and other forms of input. This evidence-based practice allowed the school to create a thoughtful policy and gather valid and meaningful data about why a cell phone-free school is best for kids. Following the policy change, the entire school staff was on board with reinforcing/following through with expectations that ultimately were supported by administration and families.</p>
<p>Very Positively. Students are more focused on academics, connecting interpersonally instead of sitting apart and on their phones, and less conflict throughout the school day because there isn't online "drama" created on social media based upon miss- information amongst the student body.</p>	<p>Phones are very addictive and most kids brains aren't able to refrain from the constant pull to engage with their phones.</p>

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
MUCH more focus during class time, and MUCH more person-to-person interaction throughout the day.	The key is that the teachers are no longer "phone enforcers." Problem students are sent directly to the office. No back and forth, no discussion, just "take it to the office."
I think the policy has had an overall positive impact on our school. Students are engaging with their peers face to face more, and distraction from devices in class is noticeably down. There are some downsides to not having access to the positive power of personal device technology for our educational work, but I think the juice is ultimately worth the squeeze.	I believe that the success of this initiative is largely thanks to the proactive steps our administrators took while considering and subsequently executing its creation. The facts that the change in policy was research based and then offered as a proposal to stakeholder groups within the school community prior to the adoption of the policy are both key facets of the success of this initiative. In contrast, I have witnessed other systems attempt to adopt similar policies without the proper preparation only to see them fail. Positive change is build on a strong foundation, and the foundation must be laid before any other work can be done.
It has greatly increased student engagement in class and socialization outside of class.	Make it simple. Make it clear.
YES!	Have a very specific plan for every single aspect of the new policy. What do you say when someone has a phone out, where do they go, etc. We had a specific plan in place when people did have their phones: Bring it to the office right away and a specific response for the first, second and third time you had to do that. Those steps made it VERY, VERY busy in the front office for the first two months so that might be something to consider...who is in there ready to take the phones and do they have time to do that? However, our front office was able to handle it even though it was super busy and it worked very well. I have not seen phones out in a very long time. Students are no longer on their phones in plain sight ever. I never see phones. I think they still use them sometimes in bathrooms and possibly in hallways but it is no longer an issue in classrooms. The overall attentiveness and availability for learning has changed dramatically in a positive direction.

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
<p>I enjoy teaching again. I can go back to being a teacher instead of a cell phone cop. I visit with students between classes instead of watching them stare at screens. Students socialize together or use down time to rest their brain. There is less drama and anxiety. Students are building resilience and independence as they realize they will survive if they don't have contact with their parents at any immediate moment. At first there was a huge concern that there would be huge resistance - there was some at first but by the end of the year its almost a non issue.</p>	<p>This is much easier to implement for schools and to gain support from parents when it comes down from the state. It eliminates arguments and implementation struggles when teachers and administrators can just say "sorry, not my fault, Its a state law"</p> <p>I think people in our district hesitated to do this at first because they thought it take a herculean effort to implement. It would require revolutionary commitment. In reality it was one of the easiest initiatives we've done.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease in harassment and bullying 2. Students more engaged with each other during lunch. This includes a decrease in students sitting alone 3. Students make eye contact when speaking with adults 4. More engagement with support staff at school: students see the office administrators, counselors, and nurse when they need something rather than texting home which gives support staff the opportunity to help and to engage with parents thus supporting the students, educating families about supports available at school, etc. This ultimately creates more of a culture of caring and hopefully community. 	<p>The program is only as successful as the faculty chooses to make it. Halfway through our school year faculty tired of being the "phone police" and while it is now better, most high schoolers and many middle schoolers are again carrying their phones and bluetooth devices connected to phones (i. e. airpods).</p>
<p>I LOVE this policy. After the first two weeks the kids got used to the policy and classrooms were more focused without discussions or disagreements about "if they had their phone out or why." Sustained attention and task initiation has increased. Prior to the policy kids would used lunch as a phone break, sitting next to each other, but all looking at screens. Now during lunch kids are having face-to-face conversations, laughing, joking, etc. It's nice to see their relationships develop that way instead of over social media or video games. I should note that this policy worked because all the teachers and administration followed through on the protocol (consistency is key).</p>	<p>The protocol (series of consequences) needs to make sense to the size of the school. For example - if a phone is out in the hallway in our small school teachers know all the kids so it is easy to report them. A bigger school needs to consider how an adult would handle this if they don't know all the kids. Plan for a higher influx of phone "processing" in the first two weeks or month of the policy. How are you going to handle defiance? How will you handle "burner phones" for the extreme cases? Once again, something at a smaller school we didn't have issues with, but I could see being an issue at a bigger school. I would involved teachers and administration (form a committee) when making the policy. Whoever is part of enforcing the policy should have representation.</p>
<p>Students are not allowed to have their devices on them. They put them in their locker or leave them at home. We have a strong parent support and have had NO problems this year for the grade I teach.</p>	<p>Keeping them out of the school. Although we have had no problems with personal devices, we have had to remove GMAIL etc from some iPads due to messaging. Most of the time, these are harmful messages.</p>

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
There have been fewer instances of disruption in classroom teaching. More time is now spent educating and not correcting behaviors regarding inappropriate use of technology.	They should consider the amount of pushback from students, and that the first 1-2 months will be a struggle. They should consider that all faculty/staff MUST buy into this concept and handle the technology use the same way; if one person does not handle the phone use well students will use that to their advantage.
It has removed a MAJOR distraction from the school day. Nothing but positive things resulted from the policy.	Communicate the policy clearly. Make no exceptions.
The anxiety levels of 8th graders (and probably other students) seem significantly lower as students do not feel like there could always be someone taking a picture/video of them. Also, the amount of time students spend out at the bathroom/lockers has decreased, and the amount of arguments with teachers about phones has gone to nearly zero.	Make sure that there is a clear system for what happens if a student is caught with a phone. Also, all personal technology (earbuds/smartwatches/tablets) should be included in the policy to avoid related arguments.
It has been an amazingly positive transformation. Students are more focused in class and have much better interpersonal interactions now that phones are absent from the day. After the initial shock, students have complied and seem to appreciate the phone-free setting.	Make the policy clear: no phones at all during the school day and stick to it. Having phones allowed at some times and not others is too vague and erodes the effectiveness of the implementation. I can't imagine going back to the way it was before!
We implemented a no cell phone policy in September and it has been amazing. The students responded well to the policy and our job as teachers has become much easier. Student engagement is up and participation is much increased.	I would recommend that we implement this state wide and all schools across Vermont eliminate cell phone use from the school day.
It has been uniformly positive. There is absolutely no discussion. Students are actually talking to each other again! In Real Life!	Just do it.
The policy change has THE biggest positive change we have made since 2020, It feels like we have our students "back" and that the priority is on learning.	Roll out to parents is key, get them on board to make the transition easier for students. Again, best thing we have done in a very long time.
There is more personal interaction between students, especially during lunch time. There isn't the constant barage of social media information. There are less conflicts w/o social media ways of inflicting harm.	Schools need to be committed to follow through with policies and procedures. Teachers & staff need to be on board with reporting violations and sending students to the appropriate office. Office staff/discipline personnel will need to take time daily to keep track of violations.

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?

Although our grade ran a pretty tight ship on cell phones previous to this policy, it has made things much easier now that all grades are in alignment and our students don't see older students/other grades following different rules. I think most students honor the policy but I know some students have stopped putting phones in our pocket system and I don't really have a way to police that. If I ask directly, they tell me they don't have the device that day and I can't be sure without a lot of time I don't have following up at home, etc. So it's possible some students are still using phones in the bathroom, etc. Smartwatches are trickier to police because there are so many varieties of watch that are/are not connected.

Overall, I think this has been a huge success and it seems like the older grades have seen even more benefits. I definitely love walking through the high school common areas and not seeing those students bent over phones in silence like it used to be! I also think it's been a relief for many students to not have to be constantly thinking about that throughout the day. We've heard great parent feedback as well, and I have the impression that for some families this has made it easier to hold off on getting cell phones/etc for their kids in the first place since school is no longer a place they have any utility.

I think the new policy has been transformational in such a positive way. The place that I have noticed the biggest change is in the lunchroom. Lunch time used to be quiet with almost all of the kids focusing on their phones rather than interacting with their peers. Now, they are talking, joking and laughing with one another in loud, engaged, and developmentally appropriate ways. I have seen kids get into more conflict with their peers because their communication is in person rather than online. Witnessing conflict allows school to teach critical social skills in the moment. Having kids work out how to interact with other people in school where adults can work with and mentor them to learn new skills, and practice being a part of a healthy community has been a critical part of education that was lost when communication went electronic and out of the sight of most adults. As a mental health representative in the school system, I fully endorse the policy choice this school has made to go cell phone free and recommend every school in the state to consider implementing a similar policy.

What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?

Clear and consistent messaging, especially to families is key. There has been a shift in many more students needing to go to the office to call regarding afterschool plans, etc, so it's a shift for families to do more prior planning than they've had to since cell phones/watches came into the mix.

It is really helpful to have people assisting with follow-ups (enforcing consequences, communicating home, etc.) who can take the burden off of teachers who are already on the frontlines doing the initial policing.

I believe our success has come from clear protocols, consistency from all teachers, and buy-in from most of the community.

Policies like this one give kids their childhood back. While they might fight against it at first, it is what they need and ultimately want. As adults and care providers it is our responsibility to take action to foster a healthy environment for learning, and this policy is a critical step to achieving that goal.

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
<p>This might be the single best thing that our school/district has ever implemented. When I work with students at schools outside of LSSU and have to continuously remind them to put away their phones, I am reminded of how lucky we are that we no longer waste our time (or the students' time) on something that used to be a daily struggle.</p> <p>The implementation of our cell phone and personal device policy has had a profoundly positive impact on our school environment. Teachers consistently report a significant increase in student engagement and participation in class activities. With distractions minimized, students are more attentive and actively involved in lessons, leading to a more dynamic and productive classroom atmosphere.</p> <p>One of the most remarkable outcomes is the dramatic reduction in cyber-bullying incidents. Last year, we recorded over 20 cases, but since the policy was put in place, that number has dropped to just 2. This aligns with broader research indicating that limiting cell phone access in schools can help create a safer environment by reducing opportunities for negative online interactions and supporting students' mental health.</p> <p>While the adjustment period lasted about two weeks, students adapted quickly, and since then, cell phone violations have been minimal. This year, less than 10% of our students have received a cell phone violation, a sharp contrast to last year when nearly 90% ish of students were observed using their phones at some point during the school day. This shift demonstrates not only the effectiveness of the policy but also the school community's commitment to maintaining a focused and respectful learning environment.</p> <p>Overall, the policy has fostered stronger in-person connections, improved student well-being, and allowed teachers to dedicate more time to instruction rather than managing device-related disruptions. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from both staff and students underscores the lasting benefits of a phone-free school culture.</p>	<p>If the cell phone is not being used as a learning tool, it is not needed in an educational institution. If it is being used, schools should thoughtfully plan alternative ways to meet the need of how it was being used.</p>

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
<p>Students are more engaged and less distracted. During breaks or before class starts they are having conversations and interacting with each other. The classroom environment is much more positive and pleasant not having to remind students to put their phones away.</p> <p>It's been amazing! Why did it take this long?? It's so much easier for teachers and administrators to enforce since it came from "the top down." It has contributed significantly to me liking my job again. Students engage with one another and with me more in class and at lunch, they use class and studyhall time more wisely and effectively, the focus is more on academics again, I could go on...! And these changes were apparent from day 1 of this school year. Communication about the policy has been clear and concise to both students and families, and the expectation applies to the staff and teachers as well. The only thing we've had a hard time with is headphones. I think that's the only change we should make for next year is to not consider headphones to be a personal device. I don't really care if they have a wire or are wireless, and students seem resistant to using shared class "public" headphones and I kind of agree with them. I can still say whether or not they have permission to use headphones at any given time, and in my particular classroom there's not much use for them to begin with. They're also impossible to hide! Headphones weren't the problem; the phones and the constant recording and posting on social media of everything was the problem...</p>	<p>They should consider engaging parents/families in the conversation so they have their support when rolling the policy out. Also, having clear expectations and consequences and a system in place where students are storing their phones.</p> <p>The change does not need to cost anything! No fancy pouches and such. The locker expectation has worked for our school, and even if students don't use the locker (it's in their backpack for example), there are swift, consistent, and clear responses/consequences if a personal device is seen. Pants pockets are not acceptable. Repeat offenders get put on a plan of dropping off their device in the morning in the office and retrieving it at the end of the day. The change has been easy to implement and the message to students is clear. You could ask literally any student in our school and they will tell you what will happen if they are caught with their phone. ALL teachers and staff must be on board and agree to have the same response to students, no weak links in the chain, but this has not been hard for our district to achieve. Teachers feel this change is long overdue!</p>

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
<p>Without a doubt VERY positively on the whole! Students are much more on task. Student-teacher confrontations (esp about seemingly irrelevant/previously avoidable things) are greatly reduced. Students are having face-to-face conversations (and conflicts - but let's remember that's a natural and important thing to learn to handle - far better in person than through online conflicts). Gossip and bullying are decreased (anecdotally and statistically). Students, the vast majority, quickly adapted and it was far less confrontational than expected. All staff being on the same page and clear plans/protocols are essential - no "I'll pretend I didn't see it this time" or second chances - full implementation is essential to help students and families succeed as well as to prevent staff getting pitted against each other. (I'm a softy and push over, so I speak this quite sincerely.)</p>	<p>This IS student and community focussed. It's as close to "free" as anything can be about this topic. Adults also benefit from having more checks put on their access to the slippery slope of phone/tech use in the classroom/teaching space/life. We wouldn't put heroin or other addictive drugs in the pocket of a student who had struggled with addiction, so why do we keep letting this highly addictive, designer-drug style item sit on their person and continue to disrupt their learning, social and emotional wellbeing, and ability to develop addiction free?</p>
<p>The cell phone policy has been incredibly beneficial for students and teachers alike. Students can finally focus on learning, and just as importantly, learn how to interact appropriately with each other and with teachers. When a screen is no longer available (especially during times of transition or waiting) students are learning to look up, look at each other, and interact with the real world around them.</p>	<p>Do it immediately. Students deserve this respite from phones during the school day- whether they realize it or not. As the adults in their lives, it is our responsibility to protect them from harm. We now have plenty of evidence about how damaging social media is for developing brains- there is no reason not to act swiftly and decisively.</p>
<p>More classroom focus, less distraction, more interpersonal communication, and less duckfaces. I would say students and teachers appreciate the policy</p>	<p>We have approximately 20 habitual offenders. This number is a guess....I am not sure we really know what to do with them. The transition takes time. Having an open office where students can use the phone seems to be important. Students also need help remembering parents phone numbers. Having a phone near an office staff that can assist them seems to be important.</p>

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
<p>The cell phone policy has been a positive impact on our school. Overall students are more engaged in their classes and seem happier. During their downtime, instead of being on their devices they are playing cards, conversing with one another, and being a kid.</p> <p>Students are learning that there is a time and place for cell phone usage, which is a valuable skill when they go into the workforce.</p>	<p>Look at the data and feedback from educators. The initial implementation wasn't as difficult as I thought it would be. As long as everyone is consistent and the expectations are clear, it will be successful.</p>
<p>It has been positively transformative in the way students interact with each other before class, in the hallways, during lunch, etc. They seem happier, more engaged with each other, and more alive and joyful. It feels like high school again, instead of some dystopian techno community with everyone plugged into their own device.</p>	<p>Be reasonable. I do not see a need to take devices away from students. They are learning to manage their usage. Sure, there are kids that are sneaking some screen time, but the cost of eliminating that (managing device storage, collecting them in the morning, getting them back to students when they leave early, etc...) is prohibitive. Much better to teach them how to have them in their lockers/cars or tucked in the bottom of their bags, since that is how we hope they will use them out in the world beyond the high school.</p>
<p>Students are much more attentive, engaged, and less combative!!</p>	<p>Lots of training for teachers around consistency, having a script, and having follow through</p>
<p>It has made our school a much better place. We are more focused on community, living in the moment, and the students are more calm and kind.</p>	<p>Do it now, stop wasting time talking about it. Tell the parents resisting to stop making us all anxious for no reason.</p>
<p>In the MOST POSITIVE WAY!!! Students are so much more engaged with one another. There isn't a stigma around who has what device. No one has an advantage or disadvantage over one another, which always comes around who has what device. But the most important impact is how students are talking and looking at one another. They are learning to be more engaged with PEOPLE, reading non-verbal cues, and there just seems to be a more healthy environment. Kids are not on social media. The potential for cyber bullying is greatly reduced during the day, and I believe that since kids are looking at and talking TO one another, the human element is back in their ears and eyes reducing the impulsivity to be unkind to others via technology.</p>	<p>EVERYONE should have a no device policy. It makes such a different and positive impact on students' interactions. They truly seem happier and more engaged with one another, even if they say they don't.</p> <p>Having something as simple as a wall-mounted pouch has worked very well. (Behind the teacher's desk or somewhere visibly safe.) Setting clear expectations and EVERYONE MUST be consistent with the expectations and consequences. (SO VERY IMPORTANT) The adults need to be trained as well to uphold the expectations.</p>

How has the cell phone and personal device policy impacted your school?	What should the state or other districts consider when implementing a similar policy?
<p>Our school climate has drastically improved. Students are more engaged in their academic work and are more willing to take risks and interact with one another. When they have down time they talk to one another and play games, and that ability to talk and play games transfers into the classroom as well. It's easier to connect with and build relationships with them and it's easier for them to build relationships with one another.</p> <p>Example - the other day our Internet wasn't working and we weren't able to access any of the materials I had planned to use for class that day. After considerable time together, the group of students I have had been able to connect and take risks together. Having built this relationship, the students brainstormed and created an activity together that allowed them to continue class.</p>	<p>I would encourage other districts to speak with schools that have done so. I don't think any of them regret it!</p>