



## LAMOILLE SOUTH SUPERVISORY UNION

46 Copley Avenue  
Morrisville, VT 05661  
(802) 888-4541

May 12, 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,

Ryan Heraty  
Superintendent  
Lamoille South Supervisory Union