



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

OUSD Cell Phone Policy 2026-2027



www.ousd.org



@OUSDnews

Purpose



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students



Present proposed districtwide cell phone policy



Share rationale and expected outcomes



Request Board approval



Why a Cell Phone Ban Now?



Increased classroom disruption linked to device use



Growth in student conflicts driven by social media during school hours



Inconsistent expectations across classrooms and schools



Need for a clear, systemwide approach



Align with Ed. Code requirements by July 1st

Goal: Balance learning, safety, and student well-being.

AB 3216 (Phone-Free School Act)



California law allows districts to **limit or prohibit** student use of mobile phones during the school day.



School districts must have a plan by **July 1, 2026**

Mandatory Use Situations:



- Emergencies
- Health needs
- IEP accommodations
- Staff permission

Policy Overview



Reducing academic disruptions while maintaining safety.

Framework:

Bell-to-bell phone-free school day

- Applies to all students (TK–12)
- Limits use of smartphones and personal devices during the instructional day
- Devices must be off/silent, out of sight, and securely stored

Why Full Ban vs Partial Ban

Bell-to-Bell {Full Ban}

- ... Consistent expectations across all grades
- /f|\ Eliminates distractions throughout the entire day
- rl<}; Supports **focus, learning, and mental engagement**
- ◆ Promotes **face-to-face interaction** and **school connectedness**

Partial Ban {Classroom Time Only}

- 1 ◆ Inconsistent expectations across settings
Phones still used during lunch/passing
- D° periods (safety)
- ◆ Students remain mentally preoccupied
)i3-/J ("cognitive residue")
- Ji(S) Reduces effectiveness of instructional time
- ◆ Requires constant teacher enforcement



Impact on Safety



Emergency Response

Reduces misinformation during emergencies; supporting coordinated response.



Accurate Flow

Allows staff to provide accurate communication flow during incidents.



Conflict Prevention

Prevents escalation through group messaging and social media.

Data Tracking

1. Discipline Data



Suspension and referral rates related to defiance/disruption



Suspensions involving fights, harassment, or bullying



Disproportionate suspension rates amongst vulnerable populations

2. School Climate & Safety



Total incident reports (Intake Log data)



Campus safety events and escalation trends



Reports of



cyberbullying/bullying occurring during the school day



Implementation Considerations



Staff & Policy

Training and alignment with district policies.



Communication

Clear outreach to students and families.



Monitoring

Ongoing support and system oversight.



Fiscal Impact

Investment in site-based storage systems.

"This is a culture shift, not just a rule change"

End slide with changeable photo.
Please adjust opaque box as **best fits**
the photo. This example below shows
35% white. Delete this box!



Community Schools, Thriving Students



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Students

1011 Union Street, Oakland, CA 94607

www.ousd.org



@OUSDnews