

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

OUSD Cell Phone Policy

OUSD Board Meeting, June 24, 2026

**Presented by Nelson Alegria,
Executive Director, Safety**



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

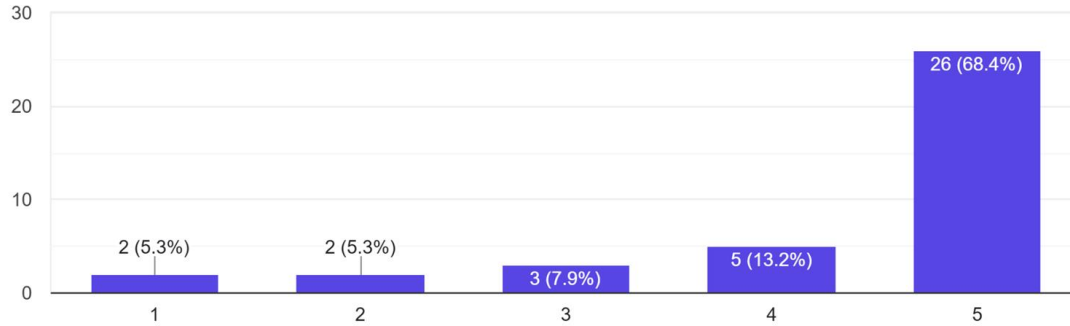
Ask of the Board

- Review data requested from Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting on April 21, 2026; and
- Adopt the proposed OUSD Cell Phone Policy.

Administration Feedback Update

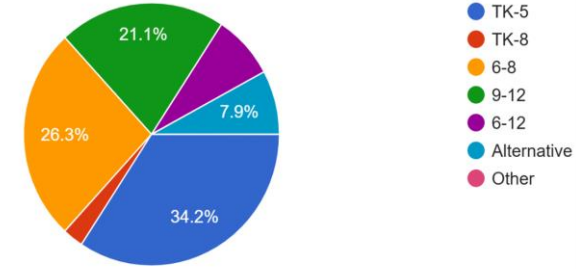
Overall, to what extent do you support a bell-to-bell cell phone ban?

38 responses



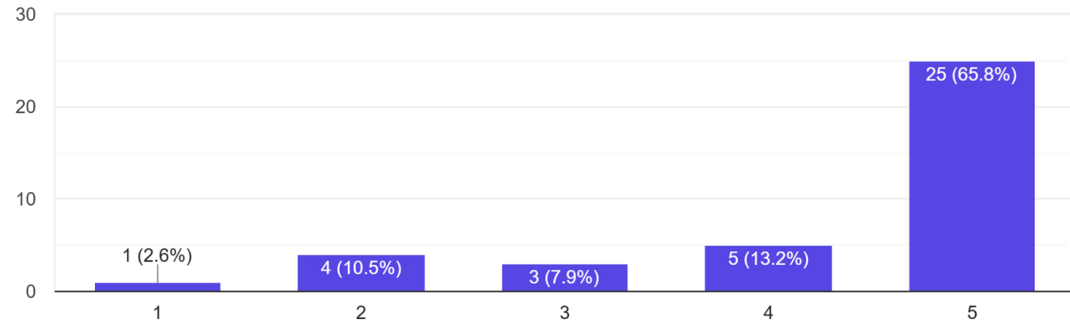
Grade Level

38 responses



To what extent do you believe a full ban is more effective than a partial restriction?

38 responses



Need for clear districtwide enforcement expectations



Need for family communication and outreach



Need for implementation guidance

Community Lead Outreach



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336 Respondents

on a petition in favor of a phone-free school day

240

Parents

47

Teachers

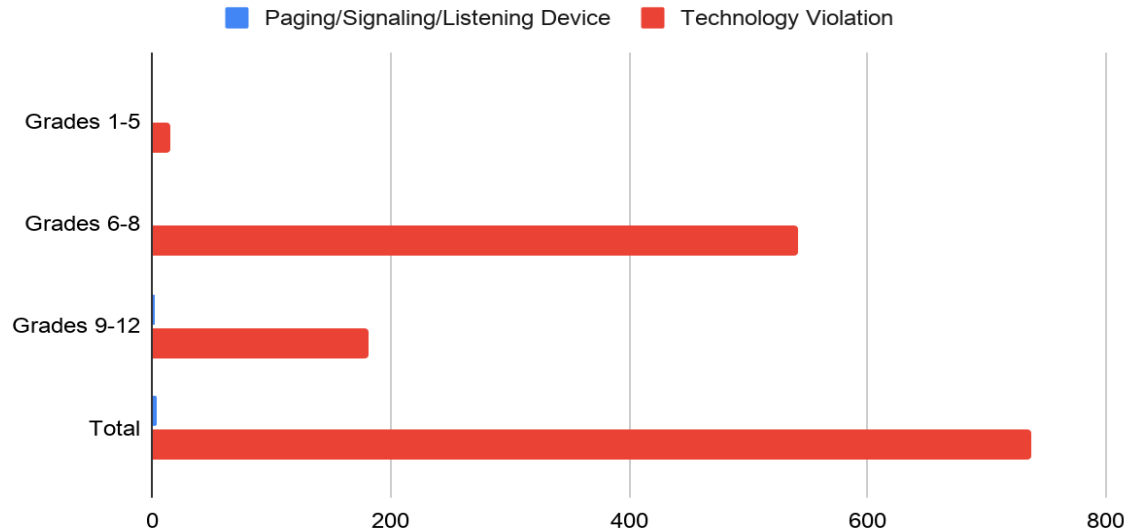
11

Other Staff

The petitions showed a strong interest from families in reducing distractions from cell phones during the school day and setting stronger expectations across the District

Cell Phone Discipline Data

Paging/Signaling/Listening Device and Technology Violation



August 2025 - June 2026

	Grades 1-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12	Total
Paging/Signaling/Listening Device	0	1	3	4
Technology Violation	16	541	181	738

Timeline

June 24th, 2026

School Board Meeting

Staff will present the recommendation from the Teaching & Learning Committee

July 1st, 2026

Law Goes Into Effect

Law will go into effect for the 26-27 school year.

July - August

Implementation and Parent Notifications

Parent handbook will be updated and school sites will work on implementation for the school year

August

Discipline Matrix Update

Safety Department will bring the updated Discipline Matrix to the Teaching & Learning Committee to discuss all changes and updates made.



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OUSD Cell Phone Policy 26-27

Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting, April 21, 2026



Presented by Nelson Alegria,
Executive Director of Safety

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Purpose



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Present proposed district-wide 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)



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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



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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


 Eliminates distractions throughout the entire day


 Supports **focus, learning, and mental engagement**


 Promotes **face-to-face interaction and school connectedness**


Partial Ban (Classroom Time Only)

 Inconsistent expectations across settings

 Phones still used during lunch/passing periods (safety)

 Students remain mentally preoccupied (“cognitive residue”)

 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!



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