

Cell Phone/Device Policy Update: **Restriction of Student Personal Electronic Devices**

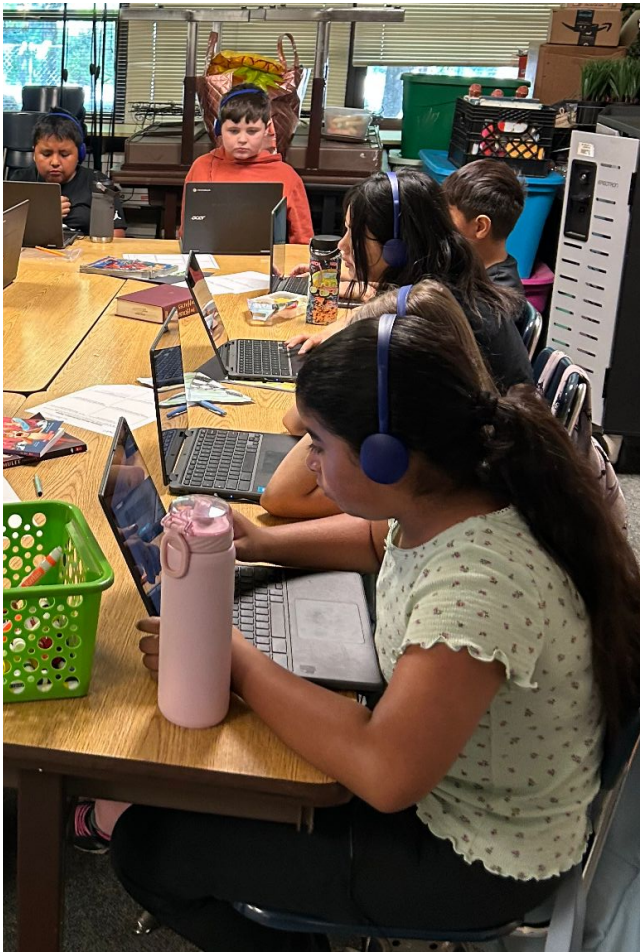
School Board Study Session
September 9, 2025



Presentation Team

- Dr. Shelly Reggiani, *Associate Superintendent*
- Todd Corsetti, *High School Executive Administrator*
- Robin Kobrowski, *PreK-8 Executive Administrator*





Objectives

- Review Governor's executive order
- Identify changes in district rules
- Preview board policy update
- Share communication plan and implementation support to schools

Governor's Executive Order 25-09

Requirements of all public schools:

- Ban student cell phone use during the entire school day
- District must create policy by October 31, 2025
- Full implementation required by January 1, 2026





Pack It or Park It

Devices, including cell phones and wireless headphones/earbuds, must be packed into backpacks or parking phone holders during instructional times.



Classroom

Devices must be turned off and away at the start of class time. Cell phones will not be used as a tool of instruction. All staff will enforce this policy uniformly. Exceptions will be made for students whose IEP and 504 plans indicate device-related accommodations.



Hallways & Restrooms

Devices will not be allowed in hallways or restrooms during class.



Passing Time & Lunch

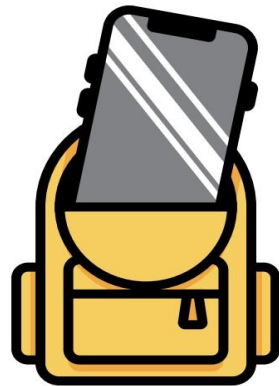
Students may use phones during passing time and lunch.

BSD's plan determined & announced in spring 2025:

General Guidelines

- All students are required to "pack or park" their cell phones and electronic devices (smart watches and earbuds), during the school day as determined by level.
- "Pack" means storing the device in a backpack, locker, or other designated area.
- "Park" means placing the device in a designated area within the classroom or school premises.

2025-2026 School Year Expectations



Pack It *or* Park It

All personal electronic devices — including cell phones, earbuds, headphones and smartwatches, must be stored in backpacks or parked in lockers during the school day.



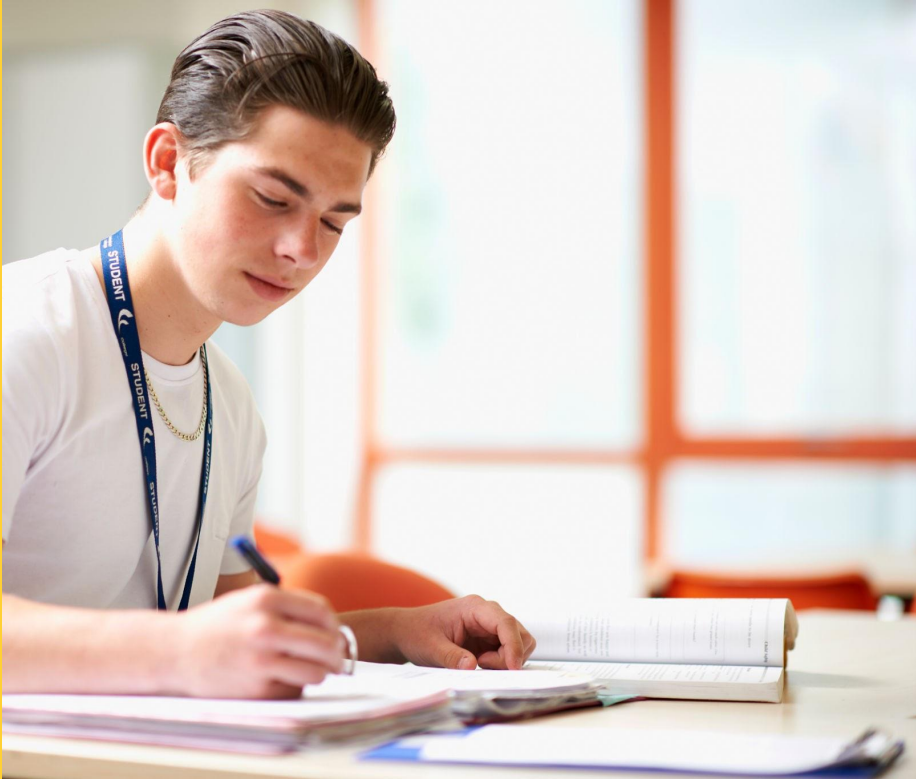
Bell to Bell

Devices must be off and away from the first bell to the last bell of the school day — including restroom breaks, passing time and lunchtime. Requests for exemptions should be discussed with school counselors.



Before and After School

Students may use devices before and after school.



Executive Order Requirements:

- ✓ Review governor's executive order
- ✓ Engage with constituents
- ✓ Adopt board policy by October 31, 2025
- ✓ Share with community



Foundational Ideas

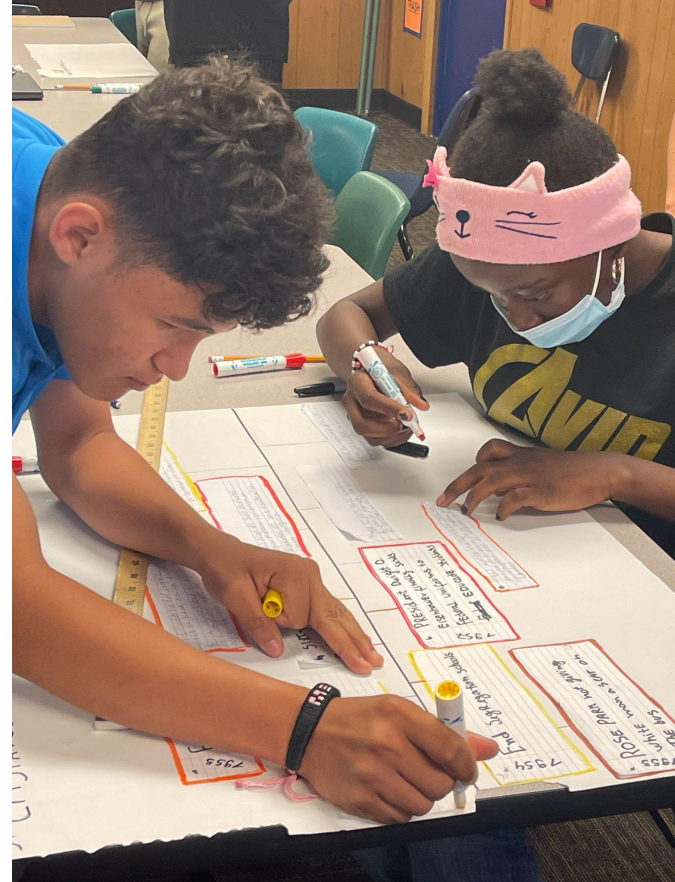
Safe & Thriving Student Health & Well-being



To achieve these **outcomes**



- Every student feels safe.
- Every student thrives socially and emotionally.
- All identities are valued, and every student is included.



Equity Lens



When **making decisions and taking action**, utilize the following questions:

Whose voice is and isn't represented in this decision?

Whom does this decision **benefit or burden** ?

Is this decision in alignment with the **BSD Equity Policy** ?

Does this decision **close or widen** the access, opportunity, and expectation gaps?

Additional considerations:

What **systemic barriers** might be at play in this situation?

What **other possibilities** were explored?

Is the decision/outcome **sustainable** ?

Purpose

- Create a focused, distraction-free learning environment
- Prioritize student mental health and well-being
- Encourage strong peer and student-teacher interactions
- Strive to keep students engaged, focused, and challenged to reach their full potential
- Stay updated on research about the impact of personal electronic devices and adopt best practices as they evolve



Feedback Themes

1

Enhanced Learning & Focus

Minimize distractions, person-to-person communication skills

2

Balanced & Uniform Approach

Use for academic purposes, promoting appropriate technology use and self-advocacy

3

Positive School Culture

Fostering self-control and responsible technology use, promoting safety, independence, and in-person connections

4

Mental & Physical Health

Reducing screen time, which supports students' mental health, lowers anxiety, and encourages being present

5

Safety & Connection

Plan that includes emergency communications

Response & Exceptions

Response for Non-Compliance:

- Students who do not comply with this policy or the personal electronic device requirements of their school may be subject to consequences as outlined in the district's Student Code of Conduct, including having their personal electronic devices held for parent pick-up.

Exceptions:

- Compliance with a student's individualized education plan (IEP), 504 plan, or other requirement to access the educational programming or communication at school
- Emergency situations as determined by school staff

Implementation & Review

Implementation:

- Teachers, staff, and administrators are responsible for teaching about and enforcing this policy with students.
- School administration will provide clear communication to students and parents/guardians regarding the policy and its importance and will provide follow-through with school consequences.

Review and Revision:

- The Governor's order includes several specific provisions that must be in board policy. A recommended update to board policy will be presented as a separate agenda item.



Thank You

