

# Personal Electronic Communication Device Guidelines Report

**BELTON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Regular Board Meeting  
July 21, 2025

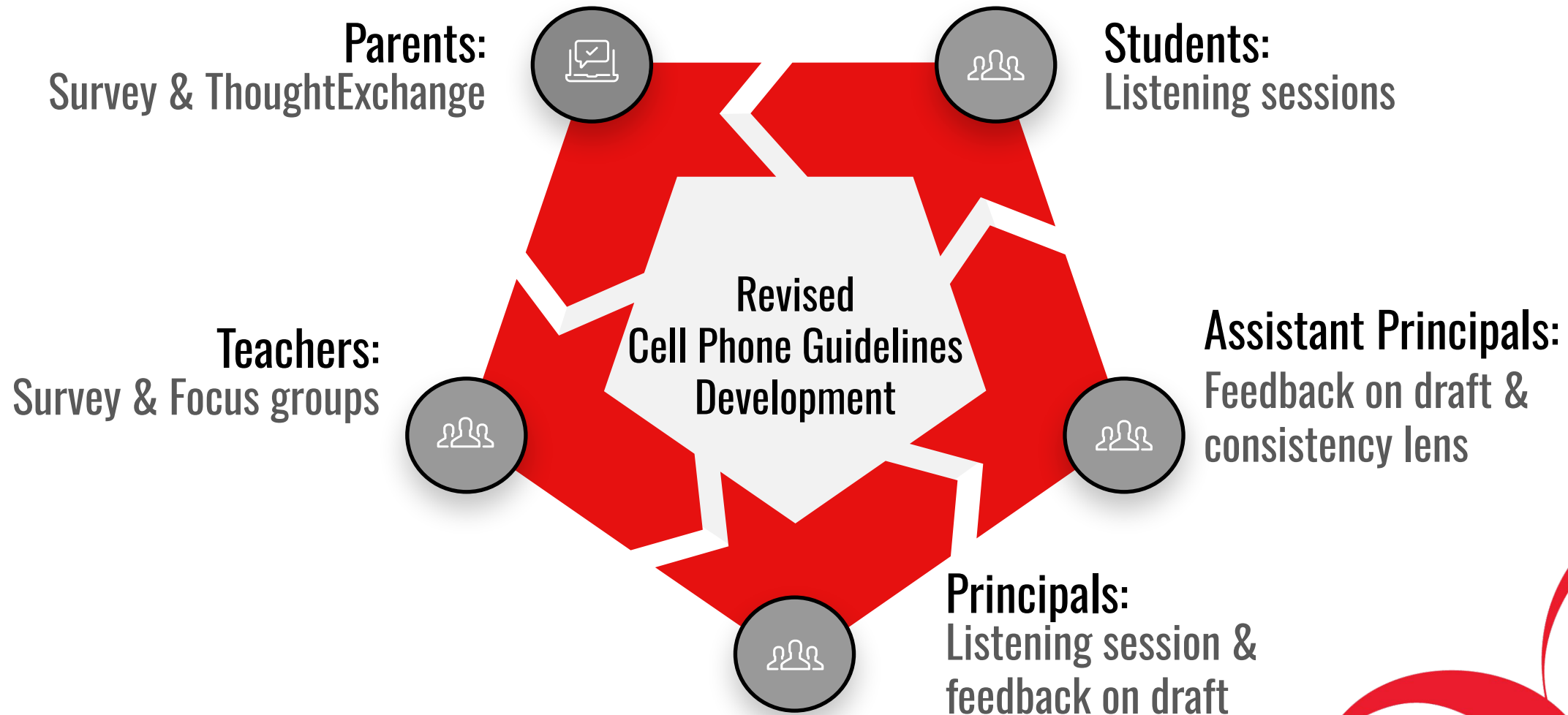


# Purpose

Discuss feedback from teachers, students, and parents on revised personal electronic communication guidelines from the spring semester and discuss changes required by Texas House Bill 1481 from the 89th Texas Legislature.



# Processes for Feedback Used to Develop Guidelines Implemented in January 2025



# Elements of January 2025 Guidelines



**Clear statement of expectations**



**Emergency and medical use (IEP) accounted for**



**Key concepts and common vocabulary**



**Teacher autonomy to work within expectations**



**K-5 and 6-12 consequences clearly defined**



**Clearly defined appropriate use guidelines**



# What can we do to improve the guidelines for personal electronic communication devices?

## Teachers

**301 Responses**

**207 Comments**

Continue *consistent and strict enforcement* of policies regarding personal electronic devices (PEDs) in schools, coupled with *clear communication* and *shared responsibility* among all stakeholders.

## Parents

**510 Responses**

**98 Comments**

Continue *consistent and firm enforcement* of existing or new policies regarding personal electronic devices, coupled with a desire for *clear communication* and *accountability* for all involved (students, teachers, and parents).

## Students

**302 Responses**

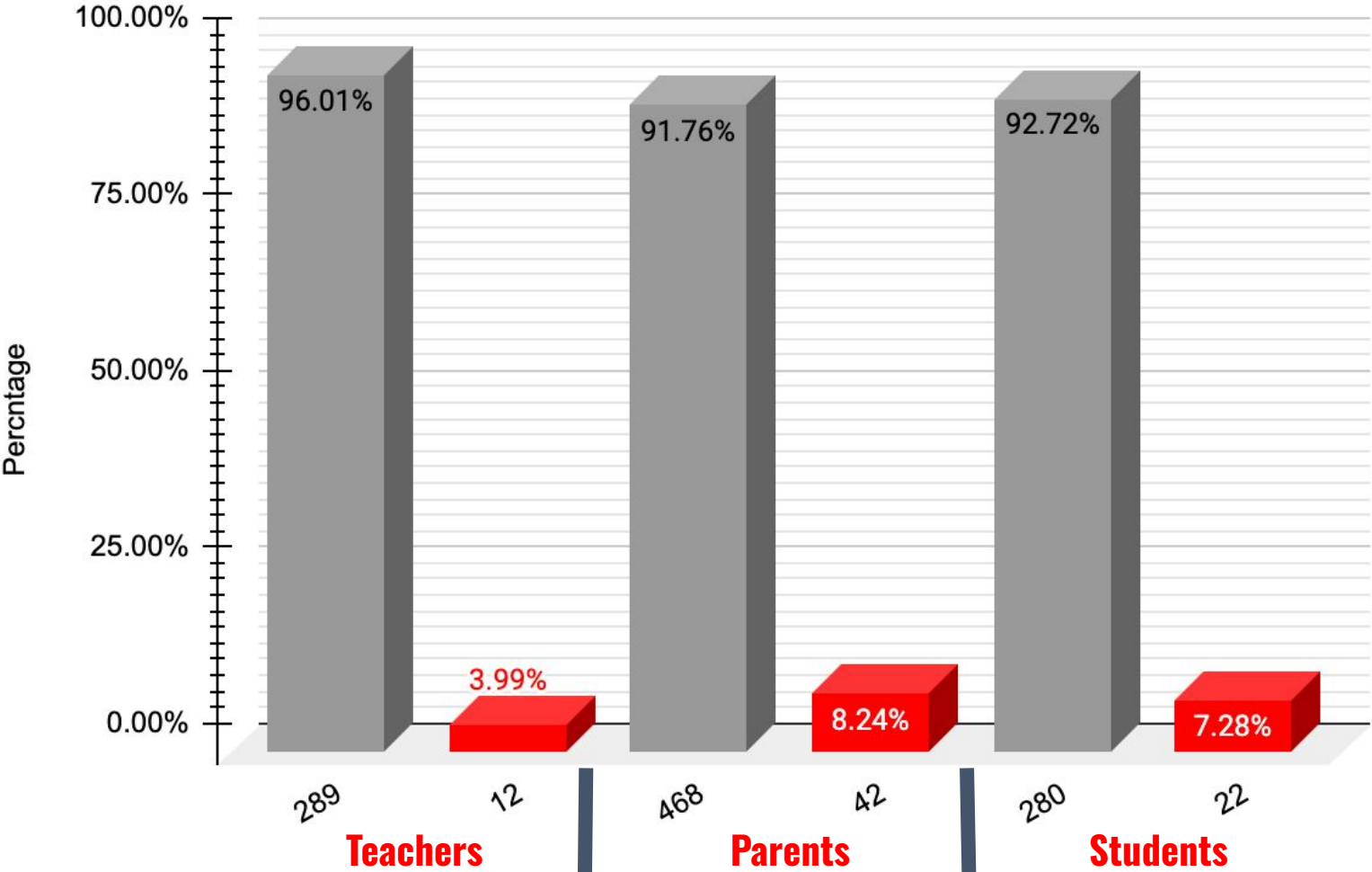
**187 Comments**

Desire for increased *flexibility* and *diminished restrictions* on personal electronic devices.



# Were the guidelines for using personal electronic devices clearly communicated to you?

Yes  
No

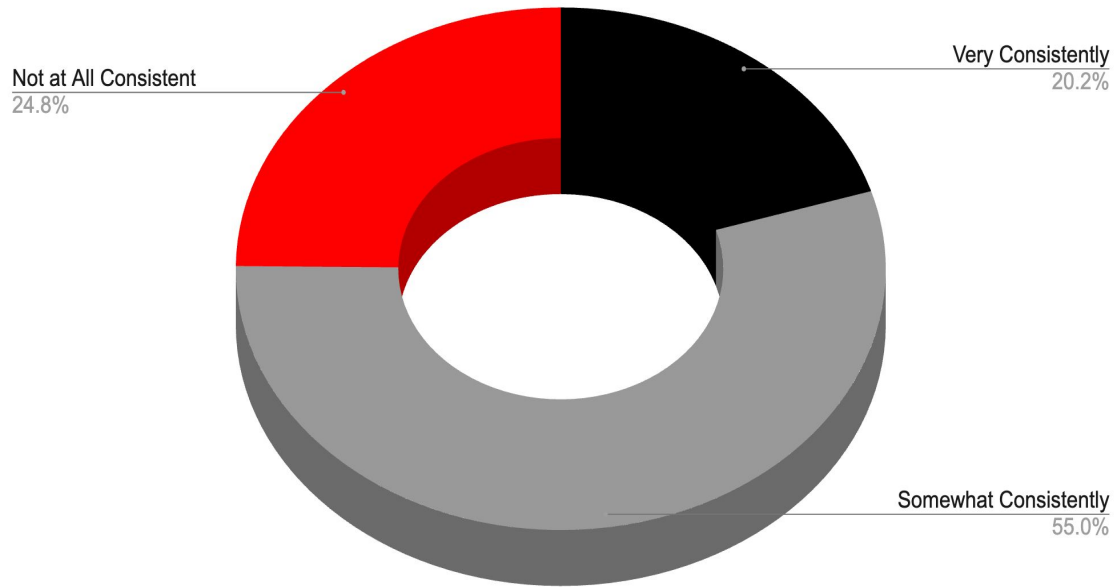


Source: BISD Parent Survey 2024-2025; Teacher Survey: Personal Electronic Communications - May 2025; Student Survey: Personal Electronic Communications - May 2025

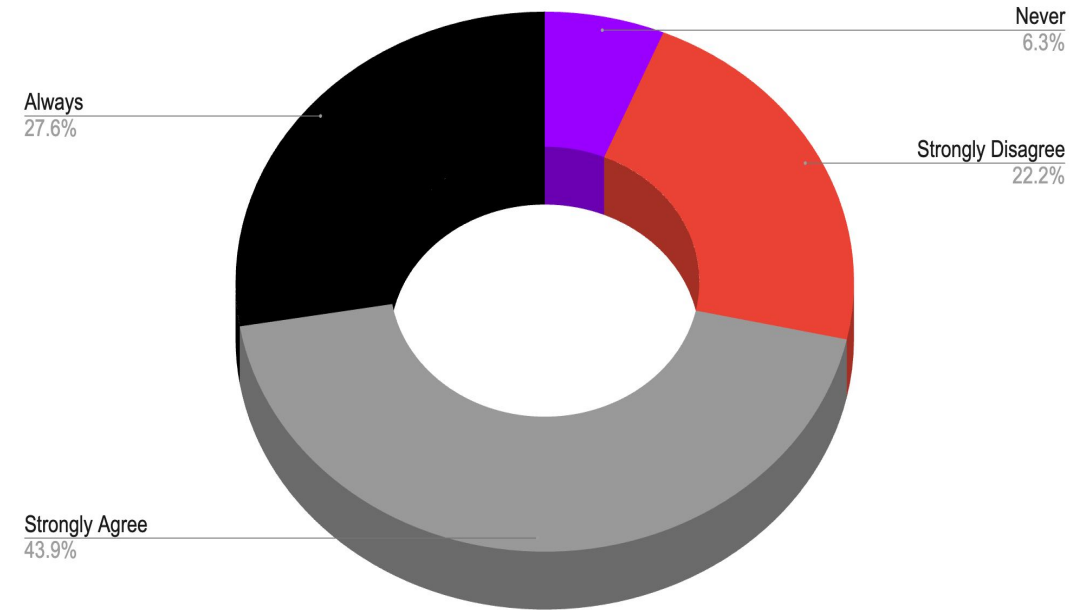


# How consistently do students at your school (or your child's school) follow the guidelines for personal electronic communication devices?

7



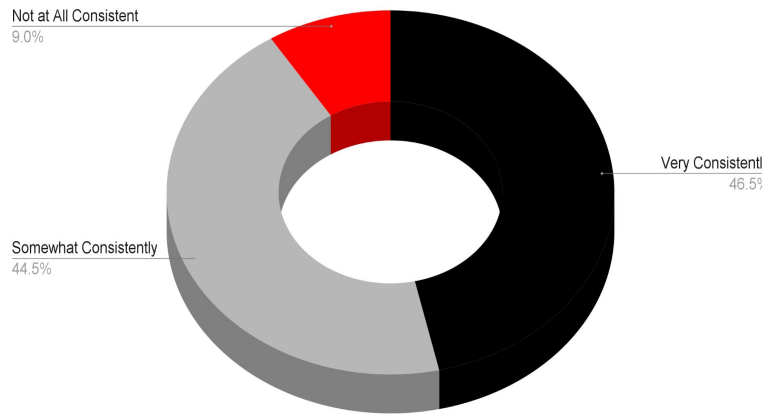
**Teachers**



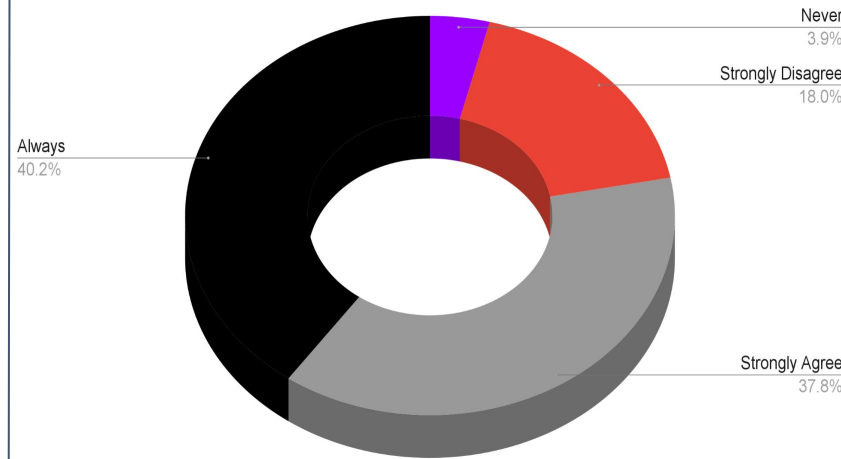
**Parents**



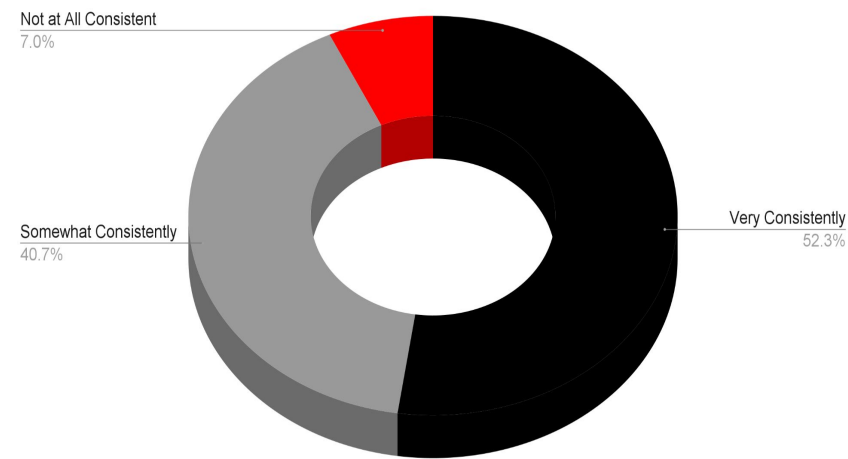
# How consistently do staff at your school (or your child's school) enforce the personal electronic communications guidelines?



Teachers



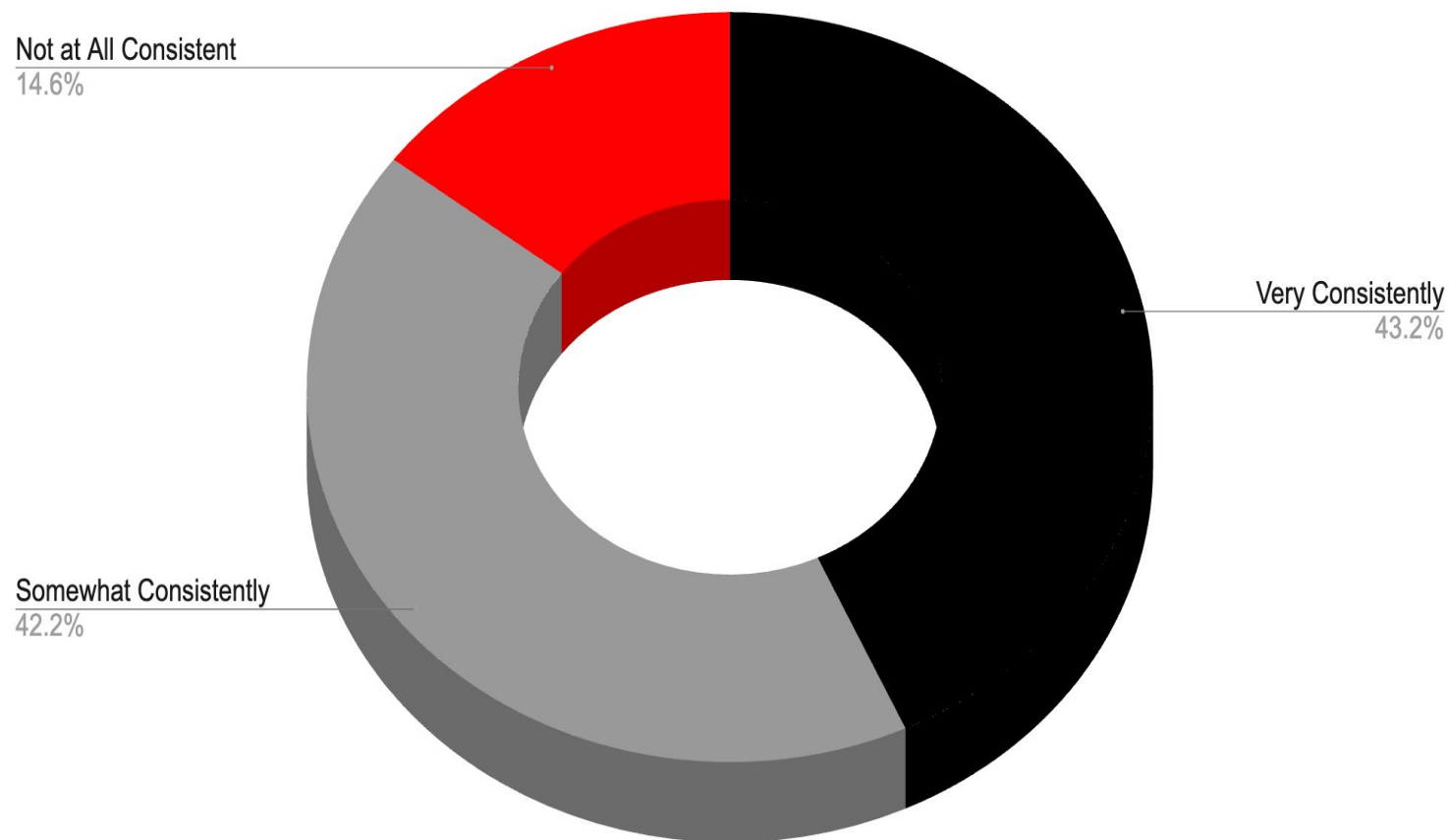
Parents



Students



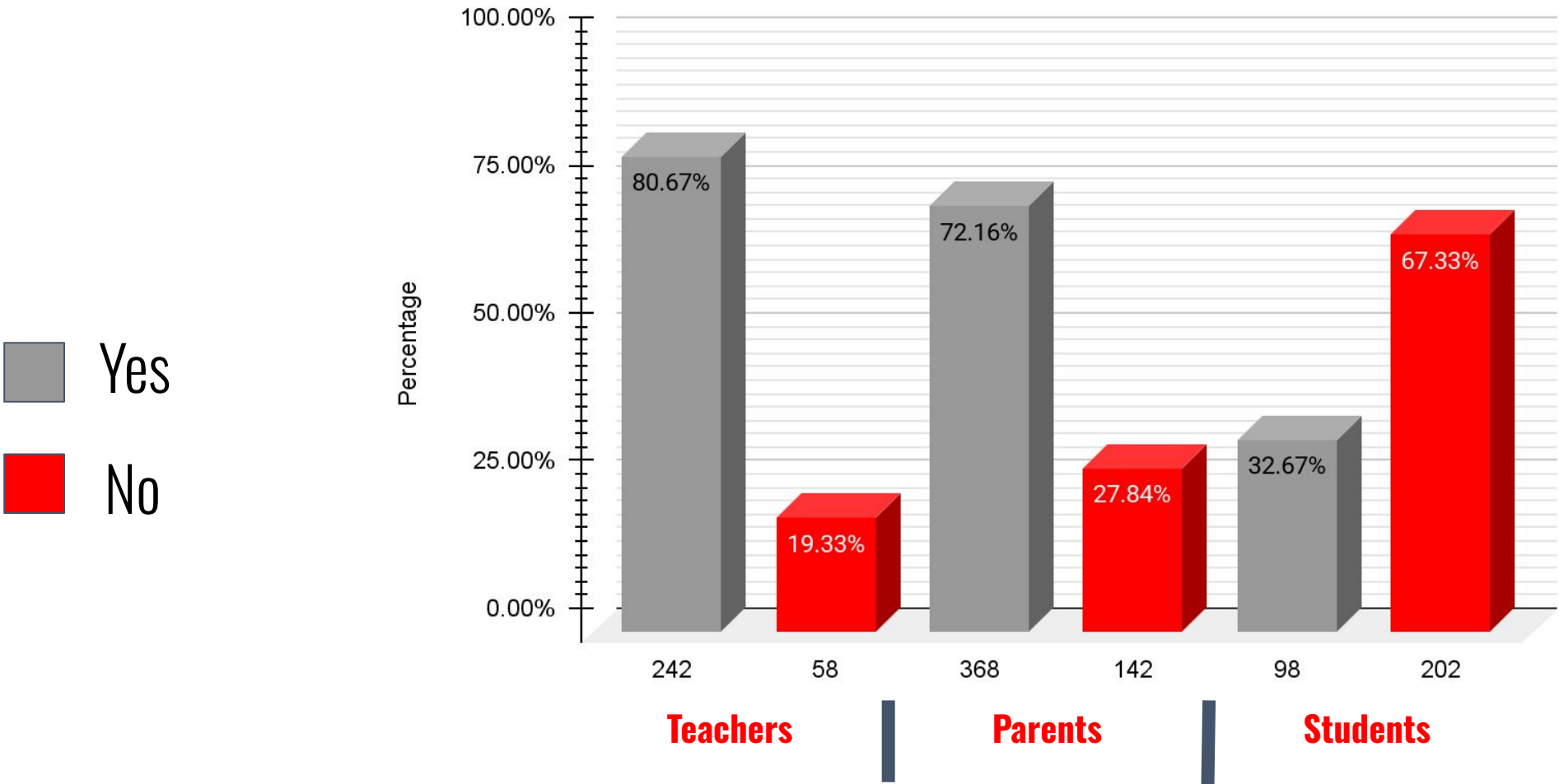
# Have the consequences been consistently applied at your campus by all staff members?



**Students**



# Have the personal electronic device guidelines helped reduce distractions during instruction?



Source: BISSD Parent Survey 2024-2025; Teacher Survey: Personal Electronic Communications - May 2025; Student Survey: Personal Electronic Communications - May 2025



## Secondary Discipline Data Trends 23-24 to 24-25



- Approximately 10% decrease in referrals



- Approximately 8% decrease in students with discipline incidents



- Decrease in serious offenses



- Increased accountability for inappropriate cell phone usage

# Texas House Bill 1481 Requirements

- The policy may provide for the school district or open-enrollment charter school to:
  - comply with this section by:
    - prohibiting a student from bringing a personal communication device on school property; or
    - designating a method for the storage of a student's personal communication device while the student is on school property during the school day.
- In this section, "personal communication device" means a telephone, cell phone such as a smartphone or flip phone, tablet, smartwatch, radio device, paging device, or any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication. (We will keep our language around only school issued devices allowed)
- The agency (Texas Education Agency) shall develop and publish on the agency's Internet website model language for the policy required under this section.

# Next Steps

- Review TEA guidance model language and guidance.
- Review model Parent and Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct with legislative updates.
- Communicate changes in existing guidelines to parents, students, and staff.

# Discussion

