SDAC Mobile Communication Device Policy Recommendations

Catherine Xu, Michael Lindroth, Adera Craig, Conor Devlin, Alondra Padilla, Josh Lavin, Chris Capobianco

Overview

- A group was formed within SDAC to review the current Cell Phone Policy and come up with recommendations
- The group reviewed last year's feedback
- A survey was sent out to each high school site to gather student input for the policy
- SDAC compiled recommendations based on student input

Previous Student Feedback

• The group took a brief hiatus from last year due to COVID

Feedback from Last Year:

Q: Are cell phones an important part of your school day?

Overwhelming response: "YES"

- In class: Kahoot, google classroom, quizlet, docs, google sheets, notes, pictures of important info, music
- Out of class: social media, test classmates, social-emotional value, modes of communication (email), games, netflix, youtube, listening to music (SEL)

Cell Phone Policy Ideas/Suggestions

- Teachers should govern the use of cell phones in class
- No suspensions for cell phone usage
- No district or school wide policy dictating what should be acceptable in the classroom
- Discipline/Consequences for inappropriate use of cell phones (listed in BP) - examples would include: inappropriate videos, inappropriate pictures, information and pictures of other students without permission,
- Protection for students: circumstances must be taken into account when giving consequences

Survey Input

Student Grade Level in 2020-2021 433 responses





Survey Input

How much of a distraction is caused by other students who use digital devices during class for non-class activities?



No distraction
A little distraction
More than a little distraction
Large distraction
Very large distraction

How much of a distraction is caused by your use digital devices toward your learning during class for non-class activities?



Survey Input

- Most students use cell phones at school for Quizlet, Google Drive/Google Docs, Taking Pictures of Notes, Kahoot, and Checking the Time
- Most students use school during breaks and during class, when allowed, due to technology use in the classroom being high

Review of Previous Policy

- Lack of Specificity in the qualifications for a "Search and Seizure"
 - Need for student awareness of policy and why they may be searched
- Need for accessibility to the policy
 - List in handbooks and in visited areas
- Need for consistency among grade levels
- Specify the Disciplinary Policy
- Need for Professional Development/Education on Cell Phone Policy

Recommendations

- Specify the qualifications for a "Search and Seizure"
 - Students should be aware of why they are being searched
- Accessibility to the policy
 - List in handbooks and in visited areas
- Consistent policy among grade levels
 - Consistency among High Schools, Consistency among Middle Schools
- Teachers should govern the use of cell phones in class

Other Areas of Review

- Disciplinary Practices
 - There is a need for progressive discipline;
 Three-strike policy for disciplinary action with warnings before detention, no suspension
- Cyberbullying Policy
 - Clarify when it is the role for the district/school site to intervene



Thank You!

Questions?