

**TAFT CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SMARTPHONE-FREE SCHOOL DAY POLICY FOR 2025-2026**

LAUSD prohibits the use of smartphones, ancillary devices (e.g., smart watches, earbuds, wireless headphones, meta glasses, and smart glasses) and social media platforms Districtwide during the school day. The use of smartphones is permitted before arriving on campus and after school dismissal as well as during extracurricular activities outside regular school hours.

To promote a focused and distraction-free learning environment, Taft High School requires all students to keep their electronic devices secured in their backpacks throughout the instructional day. Students are expected to follow the school's policy regarding the storage of smartphones and other electronic devices. This policy will be strictly enforced, and a progressive discipline plan will be implemented for any violations.

**Electronics Off and Away Policy:**

- Phones, smartwatches, and smart glasses must be turned off before being stored inside backpacks.
- Earbuds and headphones must be stored inside backpacks and not used/worn during the school day.

**Progressive Discipline Guidelines: (Add Detention to the Progressive Discipline?)**

Students must follow school personnel instructions any time a request is made to cease the use of a smartphone or other electronic signaling device.

- **First Violation:** The device will be confiscated and held in the Dean's Office. A parent or guardian must pick up the device after school by 4:30 PM.
- **Second Violation:** The device will be confiscated and held in the Dean's Office. A parent or guardian must attend a conference with school administration before the device is returned. The parent will be notified that the Yondr pouch requirement will be implemented following the next violation.
- **Third Violation:** The device will be confiscated and held in the Dean's Office. The parent will be notified that the student is required to use a school-issued Yondr pouch for one week. During this period, the student must report to the Dean's Office each morning before school to have their device secured in a Yondr pouch and must return after school for the pouch to be unlocked for device retrieval. The five-day requirement must be completed on consecutive school days; if a student does not meet this requirement, the week will restart.
- **Fourth Violation:** The device will be confiscated and held in the Dean's Office. The parent will be notified that the student is required to use a school-issued Yondr pouch for one month. During this period, the student must report to the Dean's Office each morning before school to have their device secured in a Yondr pouch and must return after school

for the pouch to be unlocked for device retrieval. The one month requirement must be completed on consecutive school days; if a student does not meet this requirement, the month will restart.

- **Fifth Violation:** The device will be confiscated and held in the Dean's Office. The parent will be notified that the student is required to use a school-issued Yondr pouch for the remainder of the semester/school year. During this period, the student must report to the Dean's Office each morning before school to have their device secured in a Yondr pouch and must return after school for the pouch to be unlocked for device retrieval.

#### **Yondr Pouch Phone Settings & Use:**

- Phones must be turned off or placed on airplane mode before being locked in the pouch.
- Phones must remain sealed in the pouch for the entire instructional day.
- Unlocking stations will be available in the Main Office and the Dean's Office at the end of the school day.

#### **Exceptions to the Electronics Policy:**

- **Health Based Need:** When a licensed physician and surgeon determines that the possession or use of a smartphone is necessary for the health or well-being of the pupil
- **IEP/504 Plan:** When the possession or use of a smartphone is required in the pupil's individualized education program or Section 504 Plan
- **English Learners:** For English Learners at level 1 or 2 students to assist with translation
- **Student Support Programs:** Students in Foster Youth who utilize HopSkipDrive (HSD) for transportation
- **Emergency:** In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger or if a family expresses a safety concern related to a potential or upcoming legal action
- **Dual Enrollment:** Students enrolled in dual enrollment college courses during the school day on campus will be permitted to use electronic devices as part of the instructional activities.

#### **Lost or Damaged Pouches:**

- Replacement cost for a lost or damaged pouch is **\$38**.

#### **Emergency Protocol:**

- In case of an emergency, staff will be deployed to unlock pouches only after the Principal has determined it is safe to do so, in accordance with district emergency procedures.

#### **Staff Responsibilities:**

- An employee who is acting within the scope of their work duties, in this case, enforcing the school's Smartphone-Free School Day policy, is not responsible for replacement if smartphones or electronic signaling devices are lost, stolen, or damaged.

- All staff should report any students observed using phones, earbuds, or smartwatches during restricted times.
- Teachers should notify the Dean's Office if a student has a phone out; a staff member will be sent to retrieve the device.
- While teachers may confiscate phones and submit a referral to the Dean's Office, they should avoid escalating conflicts if a student refuses to comply.
- Administration or the Dean's Office must be notified immediately if a student is uncooperative with the policy.
- Teachers are expected to consistently remind students, implement the policy, and monitor compliance within their classrooms.

### **Special Circumstances:**

- **Field Trips:** Extracurricular trips are considered instructional time, therefore, smartphones should be stored in the designated product unless the principal/teacher authorizes its use. Teachers may decide if students can access their phones during trips.
- **Lunch Passes:** Students with off-campus lunch privileges may use their electronic devices while off campus but must fully comply with the school's device policy upon returning to campus.
- **Approved Uses:** Teachers may request device usage from administration for approved educational uses such as College Board assessments.

This policy is intended to promote a focused and respectful academic environment. Compliance from all students and staff is expected and appreciated.