

Dear Boston Globe Editor,

I read Shannon Larson's article on the dramatic results of banning smartphones in Norway's middle schools with interest. Since implementing a ban on cell phones at the Christa McAuliffe Charter School in Framingham, we have seen dramatic results, not just on the mental health of individual students, but in our classrooms and hallways. Teachers no longer find themselves in daily power struggles over smartphone usage, allowing for more focused and productive time on learning. As a result, disciplinary referrals have decreased by 73%, and suspensions have been cut in half. Using Yondr pouches, which securely hold students' phones during the school day in their backpacks has transformed our school culture into one that is calm and community-oriented, allowing students to thrive emotionally, socially, and academically. Since this initiative, students report feeling happier and more connected with their peers.

In light of the findings from Norway and our own experiences at Christa McAuliffe Charter School, I urge policymakers and educators to adopt similar policies. Together, we can do the ethical thing- cultivate safer, healthier, and more focused learning environments conducive to the success of all students.

Sincerely,
Zevey Steinitz
Executive Director, Christa McAuliffe Charter School