

Proposed Revision Ideas for Clayton's Phone-Use Policy

By the [Clayton Community for Phone-Free Schools](#)

- The next handful of slides illustrate what a new no-cell-phone policy could look like.
- They detail which devices (we think) should be prohibited, when they should be prohibited, whether there are any exceptions to the rule, consequences for breaking the rule, and alternative ways parents and kids can contact one another.
- Our intention is not to be a group of sanctimonious luddites (!); rather, to work collaboratively with you to best serve our common interests: kids.
- What we've done [after spending considerable time learning about how other schools have done it, learning what experts recommend, and learning from our own districts' parent, teacher, and student experiences] is compile a handout presenting existing policies side-by-side with our own revision ideas. This way you can see that we've tried to use your language, and you can see the similarities and differences easily.
- You may have differing thoughts on policy content and language; this is meant to be a starting point.

Part 1: Which devices are prohibited?

Current Policy	Revision Idea
<p>CHS: "The use of electronic devices such as (but not limited to) cell phones and earbuds is prohibited..."</p> <p>WMS: "Cell phones and other electronic devices may not be used by students... Students are not allowed to take photos or videos..."</p> <p>Elementary: "Students are not allowed to use cell phones.... Smartwatches and similar wearable devices should be placed in airplane mode to reduce the distraction of notifications."</p>	<p>Students are prohibited from using Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs), such as (but not limited to) cellphones, smartwatches, wireless earbuds, personal iPads, and personal computers...</p>

- [Read/summarize current policies paired with the revision idea].
- Here, we've streamlined one clear message for the entire district.
- Main difference: we've explicitly included smartwatches, personal iPads, and personal computers.
 - Distract students
 - Interrupt instruction
 - Promote social disconnection & status flaunting

Part 2: When are devices prohibited?

Current Policy	Revision Idea
<p><u>CHS</u>: "... during instructional time..."</p> <p><u>WMS</u>: "...during the school day..."</p> <p><u>Elementary</u>: "... in class."</p>	... during the school day.

- *[Read/summarize current policies paired with the revision idea].*
- *Emphasize that this is simplified & streamlined across all buildings*
 - *Removes onus from teachers to police [when kids move from classroom to classroom, or grade level to grade level, each with different expectations]*
 - *Removes pressure from students to CLICK [check notifications/respond to texts, etc.]*
 - *Removes shame resulting from inequity [when one kids has a device and another doesn't]*
 - *Removes pressure/confusion from parents to navigate/ensure school or airplane mode is on*
 - *Removes barriers to unstructured social connection during free time at school*

Part 3: How is the policy enforced?

Current Policy	Revision Idea
<p><u>CHS</u>: "The expectation is that all students will have these devices put away."</p> <p><u>WMS</u>: "Unnecessary electronics must be stored in the student's backpack during the day, and only taken out if instructed to do so by staff."</p> <p><u>Elementary</u>: "The device must remain turned off and stored in the student's backpack during the school day."</p>	<p>During the school day, PEDs must be turned off and locked in a Yondr pouch.* Students will keep their pouch with them in their backpacks or lockers through the school day. At the end of the school day, students can unlock their Yondr pouches using an unlocking base at various exits.</p> <p>*If an elementary student brings a PED to school, they must keep it off inside a velcro pouch (not Yondr) in their</p>

	backpack during the school day.
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- [Brendan]

Part 4: Are there any exceptions?

Current Policy	Revision Idea
<p><u>CHS</u>: [during instructional time] "...unless the teacher has given permission for use in a specific instructional activity."</p> <p><u>WMS</u>: [during the school day] "...unless specifically used as part of instruction and directed by the teacher. Students are not allowed to take photos or videos without teacher permission."</p> <p><u>Elementary</u>: [in class, but...] "Exceptions to this rule may apply based on accommodations included in a student's 504 or IEP plan."</p>	<p>High school students can unlock their pouches and use their devices if they leave school campus during open campus time. This does not include the green spaces accessible only from inside the building or on the greenhouse/roof.</p> <p>Exceptions to this policy will apply based on accommodations included in a student's 504 or IEP plan.</p> <p>Schools may provide an "Exceptions Request Form" if desired.</p>

- [Read/summarize current policies paired with the revision idea].
- Note that language ("not allowed") identifies a thing that has to be enforced; removing phones/PEDs from the equation removes this burden
- Our revision idea provides for 3 exceptions:
 - During open campus
 - 504/IEP accommodations
 - Exceptions Request Form

Part 5: What are consequences for policy infractions?

Current Policy	Revision Idea
<p><u>CHS</u>: "Students who violate this expectation will be subjected to disciplinary consequences including possible loss of privileges."</p>	<p>Students who violate this policy will be subjected to disciplinary consequences.</p> <p><u>Infraction #1</u>- Detention and PED must be</p>

<p><u>WMS</u>: “If a student is using their electronic device/cell phone without staff permission, they will be asked to put it in their backpack. If there is a second offense, the device will be held in the main office until the end of the school day. If it continues to be an issue, Wydown administration will work with the student’s family to find a solution.”</p> <p><u>Elementary</u>: (nothing)</p>	<p>stored in the main office lock box for the rest of the school day.</p> <p><u>Infraction #2</u>- Detention and PED must be stored in the main office lock box until a parent picks it up.</p> <p><u>Infraction #3</u>- Detention and PED must be stored in the main office lock box until there is a parent-admin meeting.</p> <p><u>Infraction #4</u>- In-school suspension and PED must be stored in the main office lock box every day for remainder of year.</p>
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- *[Read/summarize current policies paired with the revision idea].*
- *No norms adjustment for kids moving from 5th to 6th or 8th to 9th*
- *Fastest way to create district-wide culture that, once created, makes enforcement easier*

Part 6: How can parents reach their children?

Current Policy	Revision Idea
<p><u>CHS</u>: (no info provided)</p> <p><u>WMS</u>: “If you need to get in touch with your student during the school day, you are welcome to contact the main office at 314-854-6400 and the message will be delivered to your student.”</p> <p><u>Elementary</u>: “Parents are encouraged to contact our main office to communicate messages to their child in lieu of texting or calling the student’s device.”</p>	<p>Since the school day is for academic learning and peer socialization, parents are strongly discouraged from contacting their child during the school day. If a parent needs to get in touch with their child during the school day, they can contact the main office at _____ and the message will be delivered to their child. If a child needs to get in touch with a parent during the school day, they can ask permission to use the classroom landline or the main office phone.</p>

- *[Read/summarize current policies paired with the revision idea].*
- *Existing language implies a preference for non-cell-phone contacting*
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