

Four Ways to Make Your Cellphone Policy Stick

Community and communication are going to be the pillars of the whole operation

MESSAGING



- Prep parents and guardians in advance through informational sessions, parent nights, and frequent emails.
- Put your data to use. Tell parents and students the effects of the new policy, like lower discipline referrals.
- Work on your messaging. You aren't "banning cellphones," you're creating a "distraction-free environment" in your classrooms.
- Ensure that parents can still contact their children in case of an emergency.

DISCIPLINE

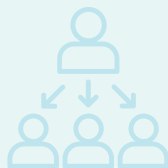
- Communicate consequences to students and parent clearly.
- Have a cascading series of consequences, which increase from the first offense to the final warning.
- Back up your teachers. Help them enforce the restrictions—be present, or appoint a deputy, if a cellphone must be taken away.
- Get frequent feedback from teachers. Tweak your cellphone policies accordingly, as needed.



- Appoint an assistant principal or a dean of students to implement the cellphone policy. That way, you can cover more ground if there are multiple violations.
- Give the appointee the authority to act according to their discretion. If a cellphone needs to be locked up or parents informed, they can do so.
- Find an early champion—a teacher, a coach, a principal—who is willing to test out this initiative in their classroom or school.
- Invest in lockers/pouches for proper enforcement. Makeshift lockers or shoe pouches in class aren't as effective.

- Check in with students. How do they feel without their cellphones? Does it make their classes less disruptive?
- Use advisory periods to coach students on productive and harmful uses of cellphones.
- Reinforce expectations with students that they must put away cellphones during class. A good time to do so could be when they're coming into school.
- Thought experiment: Get students to measure how much time they spend online, before and after the cellphone restrictions were put in place.

MANAGEMENT



STUDENT BUY-IN

