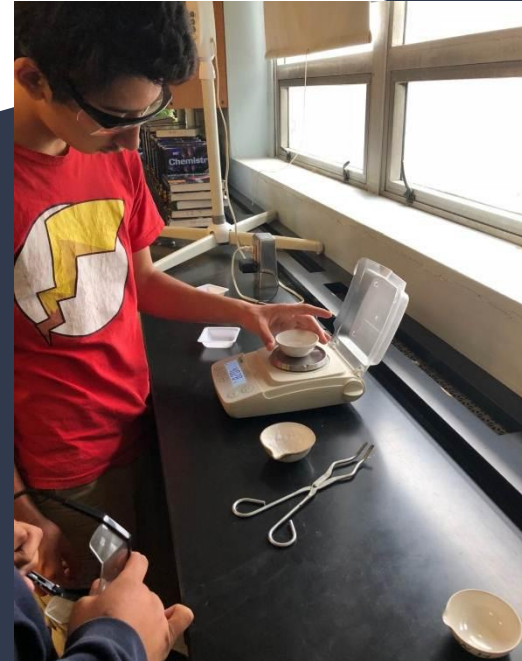


Hackensack High School

Cell Phone Procedures and Update



Rationale and Alignment



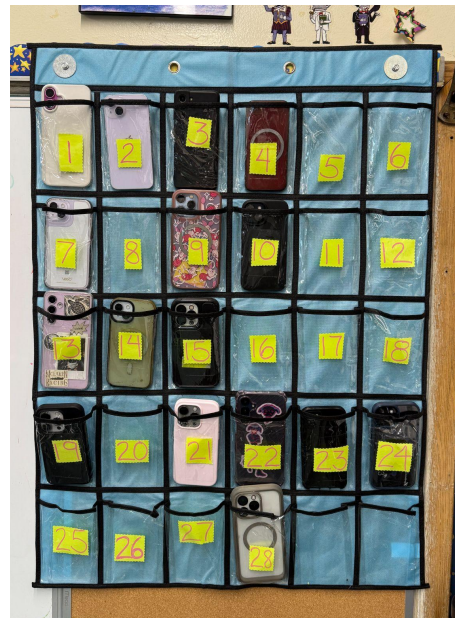
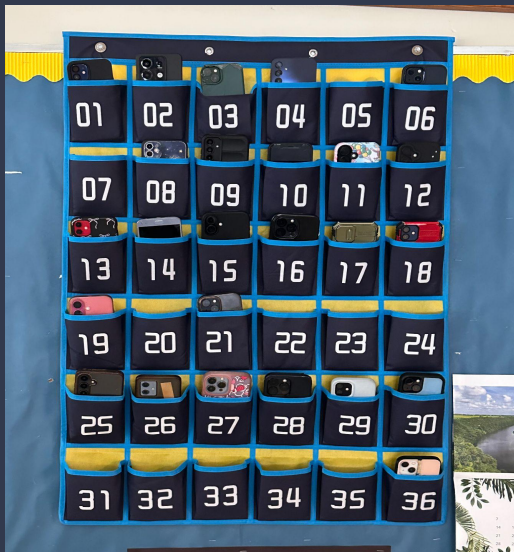
- Last year's walk through data was eye-opening
- Consistent with state and national best practices for distraction-free schools.
- Exceptions provided for medical, IEP/504, or other documented needs.
- Parent communication supported through established school channels.

Cell Phone Procedures and Overview

- All students are required to place cell phones in a numbered, wall-mounted pocket holder upon entering class.
- Phones remain in the pockets for the duration of instructional time.
- Teachers use the pocket chart for visual attendance.
- Placeholder cards are issued for students without phones or those needing medical accommodations.
- The goal: reduce distractions and create a focused, respectful classroom environment.

Qualitative Insights

- Teachers observe improved student focus and more positive classroom climate.
- Attendance taken via chart is streamlined and efficient.



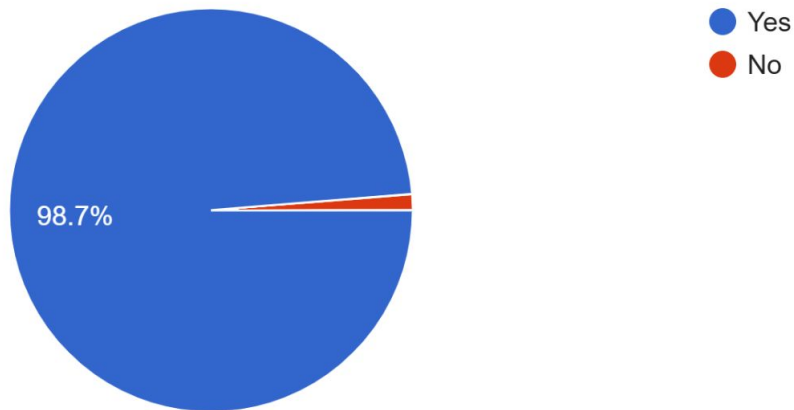
Challenges and Solutions

- Initial resistance from some families/students; responded with informational outreach and flexibility for special cases.
- Security concerns addressed with teacher supervision and clear parent communication.

Staff feedback and testimonials

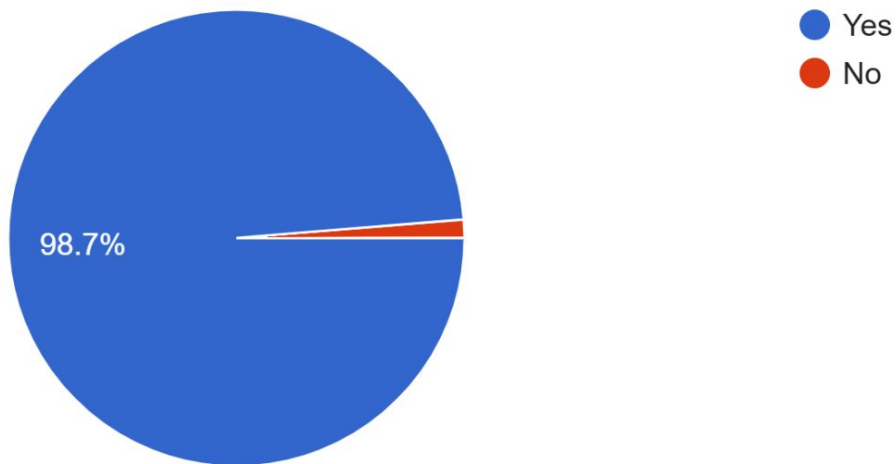
Do you feel as though the new cell phone rules have produced a better classroom climate?

78 responses



Do you feel as though the new cell phone rules have increased student engagement during classroom instruction?

77 responses



Early Implementation Update and Results

- Staff survey: 98.7% of teachers report better classroom climate and engagement since adopting the policy.
- Student tardiness and unauthorized phone use reports have decreased dramatically
- Families and students report clear communication regarding the policy.

Staff Feedback

- Having everyone enforce it makes it easier. Last year, it was not as easy when only a few of us used this type of system. Students have even remarked that they like having less distractions.
- The climate of the classroom is much better without the distraction of the cell phones
- This new cell phone policy has been a game-changer (especially in the hallways and bathrooms). Thank you!
- Cell phone caddies have been a game changer in student engagement in my classroom. Very little student resistance in using the cell phone caddy.
- They have been a game-changer. It is so beautiful to look up at the class and not see one student distracted by their phones. They have all been more engaged in group work and class discussions. They also have not complained once about it. Allowing them to grab them for the final few minutes is a nice treat for a successful class!
- This has been AMAZING!!!! The kids are being really good about it! No more distractions. I love it!!

Student Perspective

"It helps me focus more on my work."

"I've noticed that students are a bit more active with what the teachers are teaching us in class. More of us are paying attention to what the teacher is doing."

"I like that we can communicate more with our classmates."

"The cell phone ban in classrooms improves my learning ability, lets me interact with more people, and even helps me get my work done. Even though at times it can be stressful placing it in a pouch every class it reminds me it is for the best."

"It gives people more undivided attention to the teacher."

"It helps me by not being distracted by my phone."

"It helps me focus."

"I like that we can still grab our phones if there is an emergency."