

Cellular Phone Usage in Schools

- Whereas, OKPTA supports enhancing the education environment, improve student academic performance, and ensure student safety; and
- Whereas, Research indicates that cell phones are a significant source of distraction in the classroom, negatively impacting student focus and academic performance; and
- Whereas, Limiting cell phone use encourages face-to-face communication among students, which is crucial for developing interpersonal skills. A study in the journal *Computers in Human Behavior* suggests that reduced screen time fosters healthier social interactions; and
- Whereas, While cell phones can be a platform for cyberbullying, restricting their use during school hours can reduce opportunities for such behavior. The Cyberbullying Research Center reports that a significant number of cyberbullying incidents occur during school hours; and
- Whereas, Teachers report that limited cell phone use in classrooms leads to better classroom management and fewer disruptions. According to a survey by the National Education Association, 82% of teachers believe that unrestricted cell phone use in classrooms significantly disrupts the learning environment; and
- Whereas, Schools can maintain effective emergency communication protocols without relying on student cell phones. The National School Safety and Security Services highlight the importance of established school communication systems for emergencies; Therefore be it
- Resolved, OKPTA supports school and district policies regarding restrictions on cell phone usage during instructional time.

Resources:

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