

Cell Phones

Current Language	Ban cell phones	1
Proposed Language	Possess but not use	10

- Students are using them; this is not enforceable and teachers are forced to enforce when they should be teaching and not checking for cell phones.
- Students are going to bring them anyway.
- Change of language will mean they will become more of a behavior issue.
- If allowed to bring them, there WILL be use and more behavior problems.
- If the phones are out of sight and turned off, there will be no problems. Only when they answer them in class is there a problem – THEN there is an emergency that is created and students leave class.
- Cell phones can set off bombs whether they belong to teachers in the building or parents in their cars, so why should students be penalized?
- Why would someone call the student during class anyway?
- Children that are very involved at school have a need to reach parents.
- Students are not allowed to use the phones at school.
- If you make students put theirs away, teachers should put THEIRS away. Kids ask, “Why is the teacher using her phone?” Parents have observed teachers with pagers going off.
- If you want student to learn, model it.
- Communication is the issue, not the phones.
- Teachers need to deal with the teacher issue.
- Zero tolerance with students if the new language is adopted. If the phone is confiscated, perhaps the consequence is no possession.
- If there is a REAL emergency, students are contacted during the day.
- If you open it up, you are going to have kids that are belligerent and will open up the doors because phones are being tolerated.
- Include language regarding use during extra curricular activities.
- If enforced, there will be no problem – off and out of sight.
- Continued use after students are found to have violated this rule needs further explanation.
- Parent responsibilities to deter future violations.

Skateboards, etc.

Current Language	Ban all	0	
Proposed Language	Add heelies and ban all	0	
New Language	Lift ban		13 (PTA position)

- Storage: Some schools do accommodate with a check in/check out.
Provide a weatherproof shed.
Each school can make the decision whether or not they can accommodate.
- Transportation

Specific Consequences for Bus Misbehavior

Current Language	In lieu of proposed language	0	
Proposed Language	With discussion	13	

- Reconsider what is Level I. Some violations do not seem so bad, while others are much more serious, i.e., eating and drinking vs. distracting a driver
- Should chewing be added to eating and drinking?
- Needs to be discretion for SEVERITY, i.e. distracting the bus driver is dangerous.
- Do not limit principal's discretion for very serious misbehavior.
- Written warning is not severe enough for Level I serious acts of misbehavior
- There are way too many kids doing things on buses and the drivers have no recourse at the present time. They need the support of the Code of Student Conduct.
- Consistency problem; this makes sense.
- Bus drivers have to wait to talk to a principal and lose a lot of credibility with no consequences.
- Bus misbehavior is too serious to not have consequences.
- Eliminate written warning and go directly to bus suspension for one day to start.
- Parents have to be notified.
- Students must have a bus card to get on the bus.
- Contact school when misbehavior occurs and students are suspended from the bus – SOMEONE needs to contact parents so that their student does not board the bus the following morning.

**SUMMARY OF INPUT
DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
2/13/02
(36 Participants)**

Stance on Cell Phones:

DAC supports the proposal to allow students to have cell phones at school as long as the phones are out of sight and turned off. They also support confiscation of the phones if they are used (the support takes into account their belief that students do not always have access to school phones when they need them).

Comments made by individual DAC members:

- There is concern about the amount of time school staff may need to devote to confiscation of cell phones and issues related to cell phones that are lost or stolen.
- Students sometimes need access to school phones very late in the day when the office is closed.
- There is no problem with the concept of confiscating phones if they are used inappropriately.
- Lots of kids are bringing phones to school when they are supposedly banned; maybe it will become worse if it becomes allowed.
- If we make it a privilege for students to bring cell phones, the students will respect that privilege and use them appropriately.
- Perhaps parents should sign a “hold harmless” form that says the school is not responsible if phones are lost, stolen, or confiscated. The form could be in the Code Book.
- Phones haven’t been a major problem – kids are already bringing them to school.
- Phones are not a major problem – the School Board and DAC shouldn’t be spending a lot of time talking about it.
- There were presentations to areas that indicated there were now guns that looked like cell phones and cell phones can interfere with law enforcement transmissions in emergencies.
- Teachers should not be allowed to use cell phones in the classroom.
- Technology is improving all the time – phones will get smaller and smaller – it is not realistic to prevent possession.
- There are continued problems with students having access to school phones.
- In an emergency, school phones couldn’t handle a lot of calls.
- In an emergency, you wouldn’t want hundreds of kids making calls.

Stance on Scooters, Skateboards, Skates and Heelies:

DAC supports the proposal to continue the current ban, and to add heelies to the ban.

No comments on this issue.

Stance on Consequences for Bus Behavior:

DAC supports the concept of having three levels of misbehavior and three levels of consequences. They offer the following suggestions related to the three levels:

- In Level 1, “loud talking” should be modified to say, “loud, abusive talking”.
- Placing heads, arms, and legs outside the bus should be moved from Level 1 to Level 2.
- Level I should not include expulsion from school, but it should include suspensions from the bus of longer than 10 days (up to suspension of bus privileges for the rest of the year). As it is currently proposed, Level 1 has a more severe consequence (expulsion) than Level 2.
- Need to clarify that consequences for ESE students must be applied in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Other comments related to Bus Behavior made by individual members:

- Consistency of referrals by bus drivers is important.
- Consistency of consequences by school administrators is important.
- Sometimes bus drivers don’t write referrals for behavior when it warrants it.
- Inconsistencies currently exist.
- We need to support bus drivers – they are responsible for the safety of all the students.
- Eating and drinking on the bus do not seem as severe as some of the other Level I misbehaviors.
- We need something like this with levels of consequences, based upon the types of misbehavior.
- Bus drivers get tired of enforcing rules, and schools need to help with follow-up.
- Schools could arrange meetings at the beginning of the year, in which bus drivers would talk to parents of students who ride the bus.
- Should keep track of data by level.

1. The current School Board policy indicates that students may not possess cell phones during the school day.

Would you support a change that would allow students to possess cell phones during the school day if the phones were out of sight and turned off?

- Yes. They have them anyway. That is the way life is now.
- No. Student cell phones at the middle school level. Student use will cause class time interruptions.
- Yes. We live with such unrest. If it would make parents, students feel calmer-why not.
- No. Cell phones should not be allowed at school. Students tend to have a natural tendency to take items (that shouldn't be in school) out of their bags to show others and/or use. They are not necessary, especially when phones are available in centers and offices as needed.
- No reason for cell phones at school. They are a constant distraction. I have heard that at a recent meeting of college instructors somewhere there was a discussion regarding banning them at universities because of the constant ringing in lecture halls. Our kids do not use them for emergencies; they use them to call friends who are at work, at home, etc.
- I think that cell phones in school will cause more harm than good. If they were turned off and out of sight then it wouldn't be a problem but that won't be the case. The students will get used to the idea of having a phone during the school day and will be sneaking outside or in the bathrooms to make calls between or during classes. Enforcing a cell phone rule would be an additional strain on teachers and administrators. If a phone rings during class, a consequence can be given, but instructional time is lost during the process. We also may see more cases of theft if cell phones are in school. As a middle school teacher, I don't see a need for kids this age to have cell phones. Teachers have phones in the classrooms and if kids need to make an emergency phone call, they can use the classroom or office phone. As far as high school students go, if they need a cell phone for after school, it should be left in their car.

I have not heard the other side of this discussion regarding why students should be allowed to bring phones but I can't think of why this would be necessary. I think it will become a problem mainly because it will be an additional distraction, and one more rule that teachers will have to enforce and have consequences for.

- Yes. They have them anyway and it's not worth the fight.
- I think cell phones should not be an issue as long as they are kept off and put away during the school day. At the end of the day, students should be able to use them. Often kids have to stay late for activities, or activities are cancelled and they need to call home for rides. This occurs most often in high schools when phones are not available.

A concern, however, would be to write something up about students keeping them away and avoiding having them taken by other students. It would be a problem if administration and security had to spend time investigating stolen phones. This could be a problem that the schools should not have to deal with. If that possibility could be addressed, cell phones should be allowed.

- Yes. If there is a school emergency the students can call for help (ie. Columbine)
- I do not believe cell phones should be permitted on campus. They are an added distraction for teachers and students. It will be one more thing that could possibly interfere with academic instruction
- Yes. I'm in favor of cell phones being allowed as long as they are off and out of sight. Because they're going to do it anyway - otherwise the main concern I see is theft - that would be up to a parent and student whether to risk that.
- No. They are a major distraction to the school environment. Also, regardless of the school's policy, students will "forget" to turn them off or use them in the hallways, etc. Other issue is that students will start all wanting to have one because "so and so" has one - peer pressure to be "cool!"
- I would support cell phones with strict rules. Parents may need to reach students or visa versa on an emergency basis only.
- Yes. I really think that if the phone is off and it does not interrupt class, students should be allowed to carry them.
- In having these discussions, it helps to remember the purpose of education, which is to teach. Anything that interrupts this process should be looked at carefully to determine the importance. In response to the three school board policy changes, here is my opinion. Cell phones should not be allowed on campus. I believe that they would become a disturbance and another discipline issue for teachers and administrators. Students would inevitably forget to turn it off and it would go off in class disturbing the lesson. Even if ten percent forgot to turn their phone off, in my school that would be over forty kids each day. Theft would become an issue. Teachers would be faced with both interruptions and situations that do not belong in the classroom due to cell phones. I do sympathize with parents who want their kids to have a cell so they can be in touch after school and know where their child is. I suggest that the students have one at home and carry it around after school.
- Yes. Cell phones must be turned off and we will not be responsible if they are stolen. It's good to be able to find your children.
- No. I believe that students will not follow the rule. This will lead to other problems in maintaining discipline.
- No. I do not feel that students need cell phones in school. They will not govern themselves by the rules and it becomes another policing matter for teachers.
- It is NOT necessary for students to have cell phones in school at all. There are telephones available for them to use for illness, emergencies, etc. Theft of these items creates additional problems for SRO, administration, etc.
- No. Even though students are not to possess cell phones during the day, they still have them. My classes are disrupted with the ringing of cell phones. Today's cell phones also have games on them, and I have had to confiscate several phones as students are playing and not doing work.

One of the reasons students say they need their phone is in case their parent needs to get a hold of them. If students are where they are supposed to be during school hours, the office knows exactly where they are. Therefore this excuse is invalid.

I would like to say that most students could be trusted to keep cell phones in their bags and turned off, but experience has proven otherwise. I would also like to add that teachers should not use their cell phones during the day. I have had students complain that teachers are on the phone during class time.

- No. I do believe that some students need the phones for emergencies.
- No. We have phones in every classroom.

2. The current School Board policy indicates that skateboards and skates are distracting items that may not be brought to school.

Would you support a change that allowed students to bring skateboards, scooters and skates (including sneakers that convert to skates) to school?

- No. Unsafe. If they need them for transportation reasons or after school play, they could be checked with the office for middle/high schoolers and with the teachers for grade school.
- No. The use of skateboards, scooters, & skates may cause accidents with pedestrian traffic on campus. Also stolen property will result in missed academic classtime for the student filing reports and follow-up with security.
- No. It creates too many problems. Liability, confusion and storage.
- Yes. I would support the allowance of skateboards.... at school if they are used as a means of transportation to/from school. However, parents should be required to sign some notice indicating that it is used for transportation to/from school only, it is to be housed in an office/storage room during the day and the first or second infraction would revoke that privilege.
- Same with skates. Here we are trying even harder to concentrate on academics. The pressure of FCAT, etc. then additional security concerns.....and we are considering more distractions. School rules need to be less permissive.
- It seems like this question should be left up to the individual school because the school would have to create a plan for storing these items during the school day. Just as bikes are locked up and not allowed in the halls, skateboards, scooters etc. should not be allowed to be carried through the halls or into classrooms. A storage closet would need to be set up so that students could lock up their equipment for the day. A staff person would need to be available before and after school to oversee the process. Many schools might not have enough people to do this and may not want the added responsibility.
- No. Skateboards et al are toys for most.
- I would support this, only if there was a designated place (lockers, etc.?) to hold them. If kids had to carry them around all day, it would be too much of a distraction - as well as an additional potential problem with them getting taken by other students. - Which as in #1, would be an additional burden on administration and security.
- Yes. This is a means of transportation for some students. (Personally, I think the answer should be no.)

- I do not believe skates, etc. should be permitted on campus. Along with student safety, the problem of storage is a major concern. We have no lockers or classroom space. Also, the temptation of stealing these items is also a concern. The possibility of these items being used as a weapon is also a concern.
- No. Not in favor of skate boards- just too much danger of injury to self and others.
- No. I do not support this policy because they have destroyed sidewalks and natural areas - costs! Also, even though teachers have stored these items in closets for students, there really is not a place to store them unlike bikes - schools would not want to responsible for their lost.
- No skateboards, scooter or skates. Much too dangerous for school, given the number of students and space available.
- No for skateboards and scooters. Too much of a liability.
- The issue of skateboards etc. being allowed on campus is a null one unless the school can provide a secure and weatherproof place for these items to be stored during the day. I say weather proof because roller blades and skateboards would not fair as well as a bike outside in rainy weather. If the facility can provide a place for these things to be stored then the discussion can begin if kids should be allowed to bring them to school. I think that as a means of transportation to school, these items are okay. Once students are on campus, the skateboard etc., should be secured away and the student is not permitted to do stunts or ride around campus.
- I'm concerned about liability on school property. It doesn't seem to be a good idea. Absolutely no sneaker skates.
- Yes. Some students use these as their only mode of transportation. I support the change. However, schools will have to ensure that they are stored properly.
- Yes. I feel that skateboards, scooters, and skates are a good means of transportation for students just as bicycles are but there needs to be a designated, secure storage place for them. NO SNEAKER SKATES!!
- No skateboards or skates or scooters, etc. Safety issues created by these items puts additional burdens on school personnel.
- No. I would not support the change of this policy. At my school students have proven that they can not be trusted to keep off these items on school property.
- No. I think that these are too dangerous.
- No. We don't need any additional problems or distractions.

3. The current School Board policy gives schools broad discretion in selecting consequences for students' misbehavior on school buses.

Do you support the concept of consistent consequences for specific types of behavior, with three levels of consequences based on the severity and frequency of the misbehaviors?

- Yes. Consistency is a good disciplinary tool and gives the bus drivers the same leverage as the classroom teacher who distributes classroom rules and consequences. The issue will be getting the administrators to be consistent with the punishments.
- No. This causes too much of a paper trail for bus drivers and administrators alike.

- Yes. Students must be held accountability for their behavior. The behavior of students on buses can create a life or death situation. They put themselves and others at risk.
- Yes. I support consistent consequences for bus infractions, as long as the county would support the administration when they are enforced.
- I do support specific consequences rather than left to the discretion of individuals. Our discipline plan reflects that concept specifically because we have had inconsistent administration. Unfortunately there have been many times that "higher ups" have thwarted our efforts to be consistent by succumbing to pressure from vocal parents. I would support any proposal that would make rules less flexible and vulnerable to individual interference.

I am especially interested in the afore mentioned concept. Lots of our students suffer the consequences of "the rules" because their parents are disinterested in their education, have decided to let the schools educate their kids or feel insecure to approach the school. The students with more vocal parents who may have more time and "other" motives have less need to follow "the rules."

- Yes. I support specific consequences for specific types of behavior. I think a lot of misbehavior occurs because kids "take their chances" hoping that there will be little or no punishment if they are caught. It may help if the student knows exactly what will happen if he/she decides to act in a certain way.
- Yes. Makes sense. Kids should lose bus privileges for misbehavior.
- I support consistent AND SEVERE consequences for misbehavior on school buses. This is a safety issue for all students riding the bus. If the driver has to be distracted in order to deal with students who misbehave, all occupants of the bus are put into a situation that could be potentially dangerous. Riding a bus should be considered a privilege and not a right and if the students misbehave, they should not be allowed to ride the bus.
- Students need to know the levels and that more than one infraction will result in greater punishment.
- Yes. I do believe bus transportation should have consistent consequences. Student safety on the way to school and home is a major concern.. Misbehavior on buses is increasing according to statistics . Rules need to be consistent and strict. It is a privilege to ride a bus, not a given.
- Yes. But limited info- just sounds reasonable.
- Yes. The concept is fine, yet the issue is more of enforcement of such a policy than the policy itself.
- Yes. We really need to tighten up on school bus behavior. It's really bad, especially in middle school.
- Yes. Just keep everything uniform.
- I absolutely agree that schools should have a proactive approach to discipline on buses. There should be a set of behavior and consequences countywide. Safety on the bus is a serious concern and whatever measures can be taken to ensure a unified and effective plan would be beneficial.
- I am not aware of any particular cases and I not sure what the punishments are. On paper, the proposal sounds fair.

- Yes. I believe that a uniform code would eliminate inconsistencies and relieve administrators of undue pressure.
- Yes. There need to be consistent consequences for specific behaviors, with the levels based on the severity of the misbehaviors.
- Yes. I support consistent consequences. The proper punishment for the proper misdemeanor for one and all is FAIR and just.
- There should be consequences for misbehavior on a school bus. As an activity bus driver understand the first hand dangers of misbehavior on the bus. People need to realize that the bus driver needs to keep her/his eye on the road, hence the name driver. The bus driver does not have time to monitor and discipline students on the bus while driving.

If school administrators would give consequences to students, maybe students would start behaving. I know it only took me stopping my bus once and telling the kids I would turn the bus around and they would miss their game, for them to behave.

Due to the severity and dangers of misbehavior on the bus the first offence should be enough to change the behavior or the student should loose the privilege or riding the bus. There are no second and third chances once there is an accident.

- Yes. I encourage any type of authoritative discipline.
- This one is difficult for me, but I guess punishment should be consistent.

FOCUS GROUP Cypress Run Alternative 2/19/02 8 Students, Grades 6-8

Cell Phones

Current Language:	0	Ban cell phones
Proposed Language:	7	Possess but not use. Turned off and out of sight
Suggested Language	1	Possess and use

- If there is an emergency, I have it. I can just turn it on and use it.
- Phones are not available at school. Hard to get permission to use the phone.
- If not allowed to possess a cell phone, wouldn't have it even after school, even in an emergency.
- Parents can call you and find out where you are if you're not in school. (When school calls to say you're absent, but you're really not.)
- May not always call out. What if I can't use the phone?
- If cell phones are not allowed, school should make phones available.
- Walking to class and during free time, like lunch, should not be a problem. Students should be able to use cell phones when it is not a disturbance to a class.

Skateboards, etc.

Current Language	0	Ban all
Proposed Language	0	Add heelies
Suggested Language	8	Lift ban

- Long distance to walk home when you don't qualify to ride the bus.
- Keep all in one room – skates can go into a backpack.
- Have students and parents sign a liability release to remove the burden of tracking lost or stolen items.
- Mode of transportation.
- If you leave school early and parents cannot pick you up, it's a long way home.

Specific Consequences for Bus Misbehavior

Current Language	6	Discretionary consequences
Proposed Language	1	Specific consequences

- Difficult to say who did what so any consequence may be unfair.
- Investigate thoroughly if specific consequences are applied – or if any consequence is applied.

Bus drivers should have their rules.

Other Issues

- Hats should be allowed between classes when you have portables. Weather gets cold and wet. A hat is a protection.
- Do-rags should not be allowed.

Focus Group: Senior Leadership Council 2/14/02 12 Members

Cell Phones

Current Language: 0

Proposed Language: 7

- All in attendance wanted the ban on cell phones lifted, but all did not vote in favor of the new language.
- Want to use cell phones in an emergency and for serious matters.
- Agree that cell phones should not be used in classrooms; they are disruptive.
- Before and after school use should not be punished. There may not be enough phones available in the school to be used.
- Get out at 2:30 and sometimes stay until 3:00 – need to be able to use a phone without leaving my phone at home. Can't go home after school and get it and then come back!
- If phones were available during the school day, it would be convenient. Cell phones are good for an emergency and there shouldn't be a problem with them being used before and after school or even during lunchtime.
- The lines to use the pay phone are always so long.

Skateboards, Scooters, Skates

Current Language: 0

Proposed Language: 2

- No discussion. This is a non-high school issue.

Specific Consequences for Bus Misbehavior

Current Language: 0

Proposed Language: 14

- Specifics are better. Expectations and consequences are very clear from the beginning.
- Not so much a high school concern

Cell Phones

Current Language: 14 supported the current ban.

Proposed Language: 17 supported possession but not use during the school day.

Discussion:

- Students in high school are more responsible and should be allowed to possess the phones during the school day.
- Students should be able to use cell phones during breaks, in the cafeteria, and in the halls between classes when the students and the phones will not be disturbing to classes.
- Students are not permitted to use school phones. Things happen and children cannot reach their parents. Support for the ban must include that schools must provide access for students to communicate with parents when there is a need.

Skateboards, scooters, skates, and heeies

Current Language: Unanimous

Proposed Language: Unanimous

Discussion:

- There was no discussion.

Specific Consequences for Bus Misbehavior

Current Language: 6 supported the current language which leaves administrators broad discretion to discipline children in a variety of ways.

Proposed Language: 14 supported the stricter, proposed language.

Discussion:

Eating and Drinking

- Why is eating and drinking a safety issue? 17 wanted to eliminate eating and drinking from the list of offenses.
 - With the lack of air conditioning on the bus, prohibiting eating and drink is unreasonable.
 - Bus conduct is teaching students a respect for rules. If prohibiting eating and drinking is a rule, it should not be discarded and should remain an offense. First you eliminate this rule, then another, then another, and soon there are no rules and the buses will be very unsafe.
 - Elementary students may not have eaten since 10:00 a.m.
 - This is not about misbehavior; this is about having a snack and/or a drink.
- Include fighting in the offenses.
 - Include public display of affection in the offenses.

Cell Phones

- ESE Advisory supports a change that would allow students to possess cell phones during the school day if the phones are out of sight and turned off.

Skateboards, Scooters, and Skates/Heelies

- ESE Advisory supports a continued ban on skateboards, scooters, and skates and the addition of heelies to the list of items that students are prohibited from bringing to school.

Specific Consequences for Bus Misbehavior

- ESE Advisory does not support the concept of consistent consequences for specific types of behavior, with three levels of consequences, based upon the severity and frequency of the misbehaviors.
- ESE students have unique needs and the consequences listed are not sufficient; the child's school should decide.

Cell Phones

Current Language: No support.

Proposed Language: 7 supported the proposed language to allow possession but to keep the phones turned off and out of sight during school hours.

Discussion:

- In Colorado, because students possessed phones, they were able to call police and parents. If teachers cannot get to the phones, students can.
- There was a lock down recently at a school for the last 2 periods of the day. Students had no way to contact their parents. Parents learned about the lock down through the media.
- Banning use AND possession sets the district up to look foolish. Unenforced rules are like having no rules. Teachers are there to teach, not to monitor whether students possess cell phones. What we need to teach is the appropriate use of technology in schools.

Skateboards, Scooters, and Skates

Current Language: 8 supported the current language to continue prohibiting these items from being brought to school.

Proposed Language: There was no opposition to the addition of heelies.

Discussion:

- Skateboards, scooters, and skates are dangerous items. They can be used as weapons.
- Teachers have so many duties now; they do not need additional duties of guarding skateboards, scooters, skates, and now heelies.

Specific Consequences for Bus Misbehavior

Current Language: No support in lieu of proposed language.

Proposed Language: Full support.

Discussion:

- Level 3 should also read that the students would be denied the privilege of riding the bus.
- Level 3: Is there any criminal basis so that the schools do not even have to deal with these issues?
- Punishment when the bus is stopped vs. the bus is in motion – one is not more egregious than the other. Both are VERY serious offenses and should be dealt with accordingly.

INPUT FROM WEBSITE AS OF APRIL 5, 2002

CELL PHONES: Do you support a change that would allow students to bring cell phones if they are out of sight and turned off?

- High school students might be able to handle “keep it out of sight” but middle school students will play with them. They are a distraction. Schools have phones for emergencies.
- What’s the point of having the phones if they are off and cannot be seen? It is distracting to students and teachers. There are enough distractions already.
- Would support it with parent authorization. Has son who is a 9th grader and participates in after school activities that don’t end at the same time everyday.
- They are unnecessary distractions. Allowing students to carry cell phones would only support an excuse to interrupt class time and concentration. If parents need to contact students, the office can give children the message.
- Society has changed and many high school and middle school students have responsibilities beyond the school day. Unfortunately parents rely on cell phones to communicate. If the phone is out of sight and off, then it would not pose a problem. Need to include a provision that if the phones are on, they will be confiscated and parents will have to pick them up from the school office.
- Many high school students drive to school, are involved in extracurricular activities and sports and should be able to have a phone for emergency purposes. Some events run well past the time that office staff is available. Cell phones should not be allowed at middle or elementary level.
- Should be allowed in the case of an emergency or for security reasons.
- A cell phone has become a necessity. Without it, no way to contact parents after after -school activities. Practices have been cancelled at the last minute and parent came to pick up child only to find they had walked home because he couldn’t contact parents. Schools do not always let kids use the phone. In an emergency kids could call their parents to reassure them – this would be better than having parents call the school. Cell phones are a way of life.
- Enforcement would be very difficult, especially during lunch periods and between classes. Dealing with lost or stolen phones would require time spent on issues not related to student achievement. All schools have a direct line and can locate students quickly in the case of an emergency.
- Cell phones are disruptive. The chance of a phone being lost or stolen then becomes the school’s problem. Teachers and administrators do not have the time to handle investigations in these matters.
- Should be allowed for high school. Kids need cell phones for communication and for safety while they are driving.
- There is a phone in the school office if a child needs to contact the parents. A phone will promote socialization that should not be legal during school hours. Not a necessity for safety or education.
- I am a parent with four children and I sent my children to school with a cell phone on occasion. I am a substitute teacher and I need them to contact me to make sure of their safe arrival. Also, we may need to make contact when there is a change in dismissal procedures or change in doctor appointment or club meeting.
- Until all schools allow communication for qualified reasons between parents and students, students should be allowed to possess cell phones.
- Times are changing and communication with our children is essential. I do believe that there should be consequences to breaking the policy.

- Allowing students to bring their cell phones to school would probably bring problems such as the phones being stolen or even a distraction to students who might have the temptation to check messages or make an excuse to use the bathroom so they can use the phone instead.
- It is a safety issue and I believe that if students had them, the temptation would be too great to not use them.
- School is a place for education, not for setting social calendars or otherwise using telephones. If there is an emergency, students must realize the importance of going through proper avenues of notification. School staff is there to help in these instances.
- If children are allowed to have cell phones, they will use them and the learning process will be disrupted. If children had cell phones 9/11, there would have been widespread panic among children, and teachers would not have been able to do such a good job of controlling the situation and calming the children.
- Students and their parents should be able to plan ahead in making arrangements for after-school activities. Even if cell phones are turned off, they become an issue when they are passed around a classroom to show off. There is also the issue of them being stolen.
- Students should be allowed to use cell phones before first class, during lunch break and after last class of the day. Cell phones can provide a convenient means of communicating with a sick parent, sibling, or elderly family member and to coordinate pickup times after school. If it distracts the class, it should be confiscated and the student disciplined.
- If a cell phone is used in other than an emergency, it should be confiscated and student banned from further possession on school grounds during the school day.
- Yes, if they were only in middle/high schools and they are turned off and out of sight. I think most kids would be responsible in using the cell phones and I would feel more comfortable knowing my child has a way of contacting me.

SKATES/SCOOTERS/SKATEBOARDS/HEELIES: Do you support a change that would allow students to bring these to school?

- For some students they are a form of transportation. Heelies would have to be converted to shoes while in school. All forms of transportation should be secured.
- They are distractions. Students could get hurt. What kind of supervision would the school have to offer? Would the use of helmets and pads be properly enforced? I don't think the school has the capability or the time to do all of this in addition to educating our children.
- These items are not safe and should not be on school grounds.
- They are a hazard. There is nowhere to put them and too tempting to use it during the day at passing, lunch, etc.
- Bringing these items would be a safety hazard. They would also distract learning.
- Only if lockers are available to store them in. Middle or high school only. A safety concern for elementary.
- They are a distraction and not necessary.
- Should allow scooters and they should be locked up in the same manner as bikes.
- Although they might be considered modes of transportation by some, it encourages students to move fast through areas that others are walking – thus a safety problem.
- They are alternative modes of transportation but are not acceptable in an environment that demands concentration and safety. Our schools are crowded and space is limited. Where would a skateboard be house. Skates would be a liability and a safety hazard.
- Distracting and there is no place in the classroom or school to safely store them.

- Only if they are being used as a form of transportation from and to school. Should be placed outside like bikes.
- It's one more distraction that teachers need to deal with. Kids can walk or ride buses. Who comes up with these ideas. Don't you know it only makes more problems for teachers.
- For some, this may be the only means of transportation to and from school.
- Bad idea. I think teachers should have students put it by the teacher's desk or keep them by the front door or inside a basket with their information printed on them. They should make rules and consequences for students who use them inside the school.
- No, safety issue and distracting.
- There is great liability in those "toys". School is a place for education, not for playtoys.
- They are distracting items and would be misused by the children.
- If a scooter is the only mode of transportation that the child has, then I would allow it.
- They are distracting and pose a danger to students themselves and others. Can be a danger on stairways.
- If student is performing tricks or stunts on school property with it, the device should be confiscated and student banned from using it the rest of the school year. Helmet use if obviously required.
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BUS MISBEHAVIOR AND CONSEQUENCES: Do you support consistent consequences for bus misbehavior based upon the severity and frequency of the offense?

- The problem comes with policing. Is it the bus driver's responsibility?
- We need to teach our children there are consequences to their actions and rules to be followed. Everyone is accountable and the punishment must fit the crime.
- Consistency is always good and well understood.
- If students understand there are repercussions for all misdoings, they will think twice.
- Absolutely, Students need to learn that consequences exist. So often they don't see the bus driver as an authority figure and they continue rude and disrespectful behavior. Parents need to be aware of the expectations.
- Behavior is a definite problem on the bus. Children need consequences.
- Consequences should be consistent among schools.
- Consequences need to be stronger and enforced. Children that disrupt buses put everyone in danger and should be removed from the bus. It is shocking to see the behavior that goes on when simply passing a bus. Let the parents drive them.
- There should be consistent rules. Students who continuously exhibit disruptive behavior should be expelled for the remainder of the year.
- Consistent consequences through the county leaves no room for inconsistent punishment from school to school.
- The bus driver should have some authority to discipline based on the severity.
- I don't think the same consequences can be used for each child. Although I think there should be consequences, I do believe it should be a case by case basis depending on the child and the severity of the misbehavior. Parents should be included in the overall decision of what type of consequence is to be enforced with their child.
- Discipline is current site-based. We need consistency in our district and safety on our school buses.
- Students need to respect themselves, along w with others- including the bus driver. In the event they act up, an accident can occur while the bus driver is reprimanding the same

students time and again. The board should see to it that necessary action takes place. The school and the parents should be contacted immediately to resolve this matter before the school board takes charge.

- Consistency is the word. There are many issues, in addition to this issue, that needs consistency.
- No, extenuating circumstances need to be taken into account.
- I would support a fair, logical “guideline” for bus behavior infraction consequences. Bus drivers need the added support of well-known, adequate, fair consequences to be able to keep the peace and provide a safe method to travel for our children.
- I agree. There is already so much discretion on these and other issues that it is difficult to maintain effective discipline and the perception of fairness which is essential to running schools.
- As coordinator for school buses at my school, I am the first to see referrals from the bus drivers. They range from eating on the bus to refusing to stay seated to throwing things out windows. Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right.
- If the child is a repeat offender, that’s one thing, but if it’s a child that has made one mistake, as a parent I would like at least to be informed of what my child did and the actions that were taken.
- Actions on a school bus impact on the safety of all riders.. No student action that distracts the driver should be condoned. Some school districts have age-appropriate consequences which result in two students receiving different consequences for the same event; however, the goal of having a consequence for safety/driver distraction is achieved.

Input from Web – Code 4/5

**Summary of Input from other Florida School Districts on Cell Phones
March, 2002**

District/Contact Person	Do you allow students to have cell phones on campus?	If yes, must they be out of sight and inactive (turned off)?	If the phones must be out of sight and inactive, what disciplinary measures do you take if students are caught using them during school time?	What have been the benefits and problems associated with your policy?
DADE Nelson Perez, Assoc. Supt.	No	-	-	Code of Conduct Committee will review the rule. There may be a change for next year.
DUVAL Hodges Sneed, Student Services	Yes (Policy changed January, 2002)	Yes	School-based disciplinary action is taken (verbal warning/ confiscation of phone). The child cannot be suspended.	Less suspensions due to allowing cell phones on campus since the policy no longer allows suspensions.
HILLSBOROUGH Randy Poindexter, Asst. Supt.	No	-	School Administration decides disciplinary action.	-
ORANGE Diane Lovett	No	-	Phone is taken from student and picked up by parent/guardian. Student may get in-school suspension or other disciplinary action.	Parents on Code of Conduct Committee feel cell phones should be allowed. The committee will discuss at next meeting – no decision yet for 2002-2003.
PALM BEACH Jim Woolridge	No	-	First offense – phone taken from student and parent/guardian can pick up. Possible in-school suspension can be given.	No problems so far.
PASCO Al Bashaw, Director of Student Services	No	-	First time – student can pick up phone at end of day. Second time – call parents and discuss disciplinary problem.	Parents stating they would like to be able to contact loved ones.
PINELLAS Nancy Zambito, Director, School Operations	No	-	Students with cell phones in class are referred to administration office. School-based administrator decides consequences.	Policy being reviewed since many students have cell phones on campus – in their backpacks, purses and cars.