

Student Smartphone Use Update

Area Directors
Education Services

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Educating Students for Success.

Executive Summary

- Assembly Bill (AB) 3216 Pupils: Use of Smartphones – Awaiting Governor's consideration
- A number of school districts across California have implemented smartphone restrictions, including Lincoln Unified
- Millswood Middle has had a policy in place for years

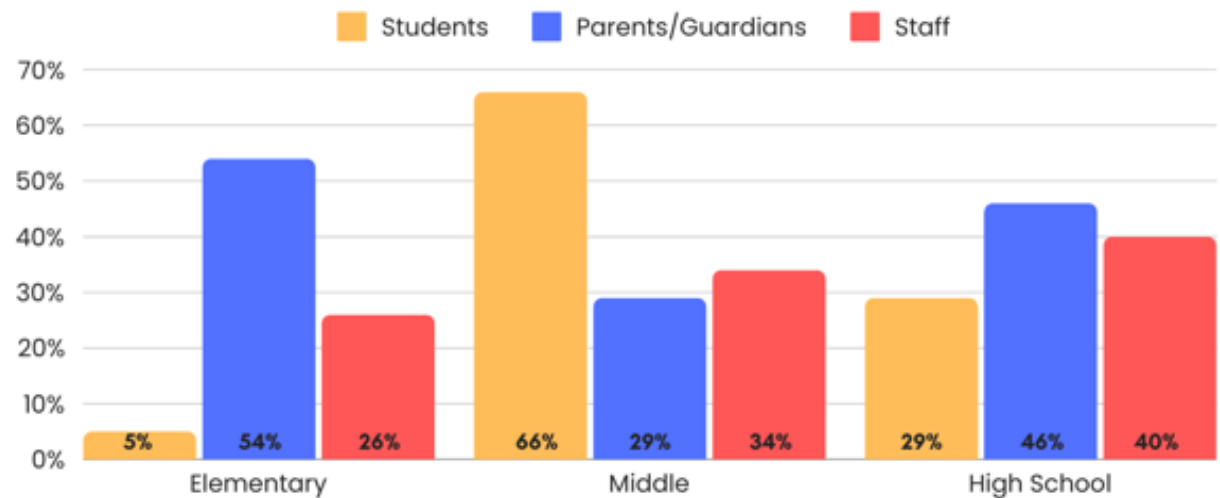
Millswood Middle's Smartphone Policy

- The policy is included in the student handbook and communicated to students along with their parents and guardians; parents sign a page that states the policy
- Policy states:
 - Disruptive items are not allowed
 - With parent/guardian permission, students may carry smartphones, however they must remain out of sight in backpacks
 - After school only, phones may be used in the designated phone zone
- Violation of policy results in progressive discipline
- Actual violations Q1: 13 (first offense) and 1 (second offense)

Community Feedback

- Three ThoughtExchange surveys
- Responses: 5,458
 - Students: 2,653
 - Parents/guardians*: 2,183
 - Staff: 640

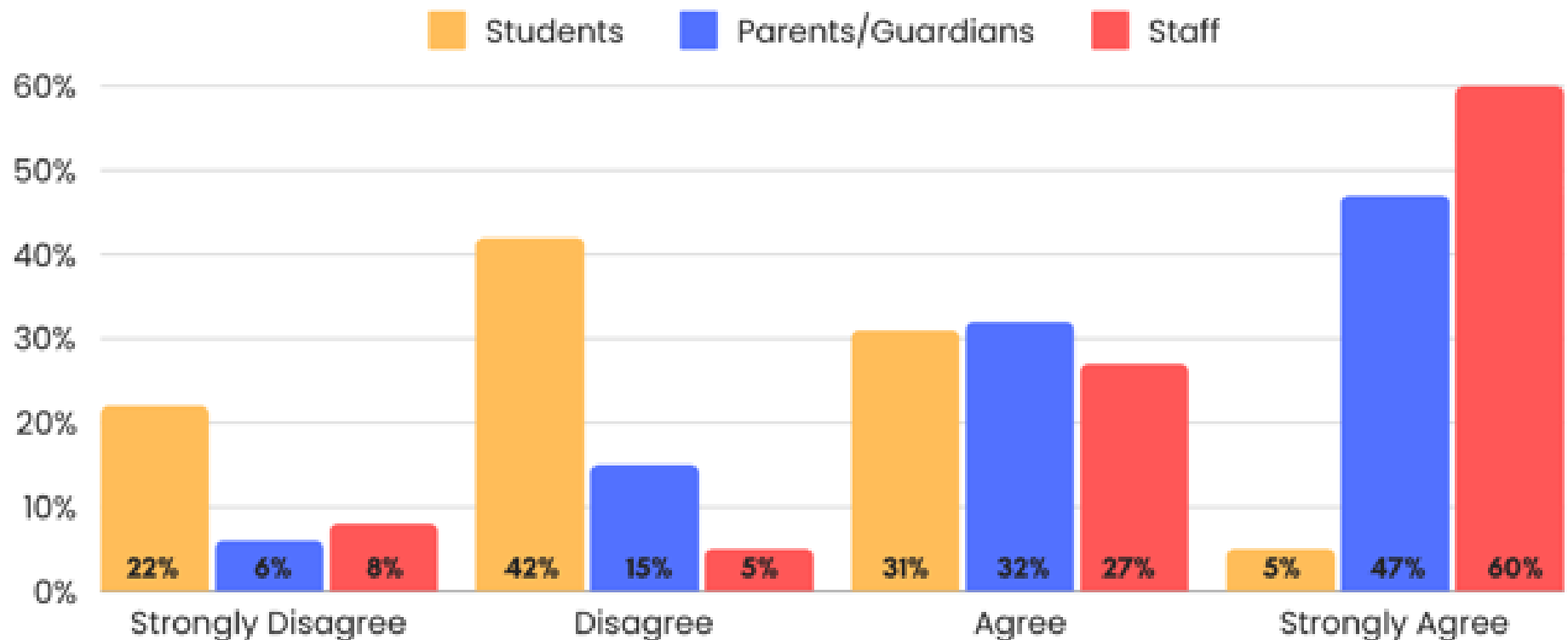
Response by Grade Level



*10% of responses were in Spanish

Community Feedback Cont'd

The use of smartphones by students causes distractions during the school day.

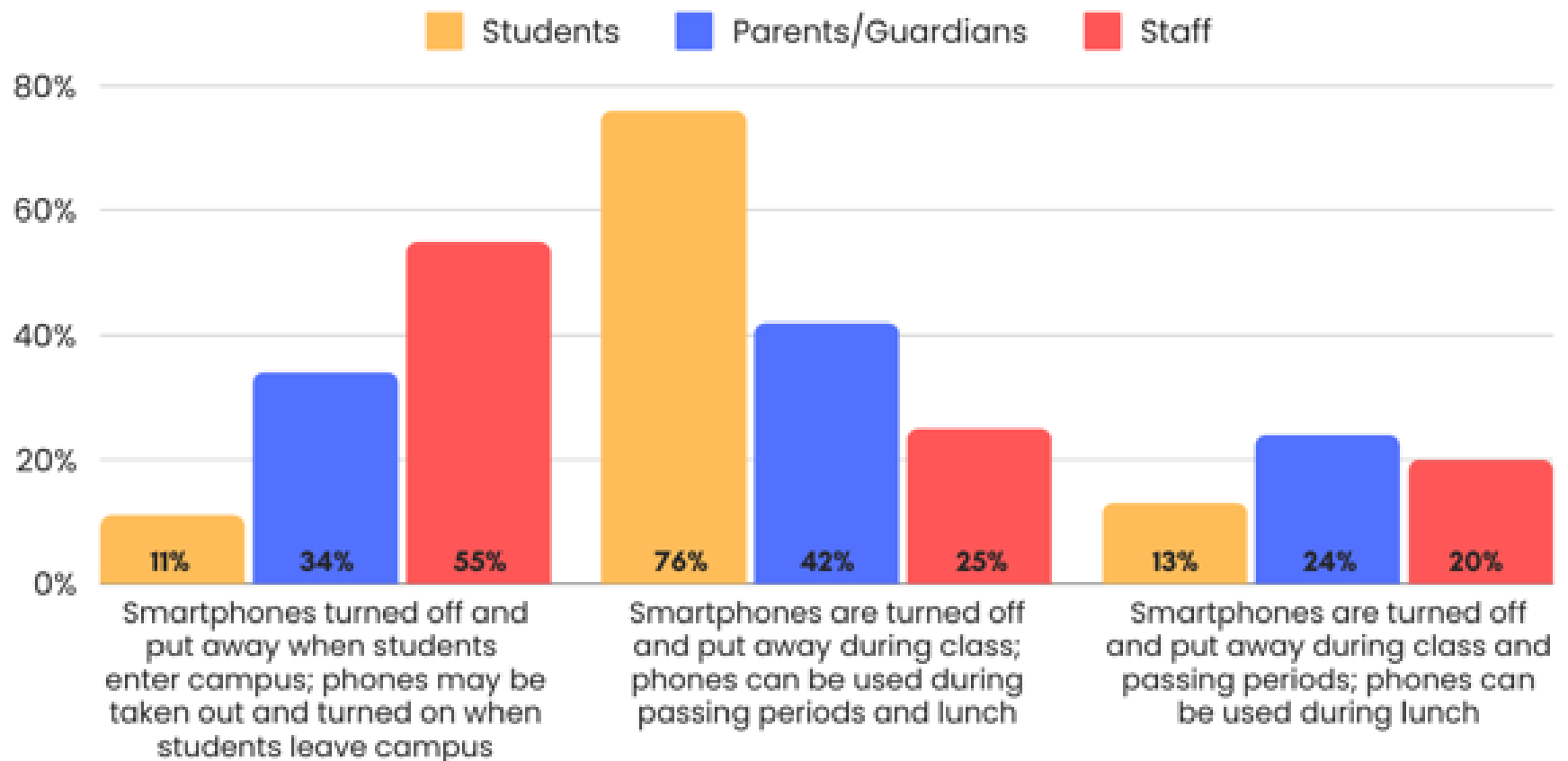


Community Feedback Cont'd

- Student use of smartphones causes distractions during the school day
 - 87% of staff respondents and 79% of parents/guardians respondents agreed or strongly agreed
 - 66% of the student respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed

Community Feedback Cont'd

Choose the smartphone policy option that you believe to be the most reasonable.



Community Feedback Cont'd

*Common Ground and Differences: **Parents and Guardians***

Strict Smartphone Policy	Common Ground	Lenient Smartphone Policy
34% believe that smartphones should be turned off and put away when students enter the campus and only be taken out and turned on when students leave campus.	42% suggest a balanced approach where smartphones are turned off and put away during class but may be used during passing periods and lunch.	24% support a more lenient policy where smartphones are turned off and put away during class and passing periods but may be used during lunch.

Community Feedback Cont'd

Common Ground and Differences: Staff

Strict Smartphone Policy	Common Ground	Lenient Smartphone Policy
<p>55% support a strict policy where smartphones are turned off and put away from the moment students enter campus until they leave.</p>	<p>Both sides agree that smartphone use during the school day causes significant distractions. 87% agree or strongly agree with this statement. This common ground highlights a shared concern for the negative impact of smartphones on student focus and classroom management.</p>	<p>25% prefers a more lenient policy where smartphones are turned off and put away during class but can be used during passing periods and lunch.</p>

ThoughtExchange Results

Common Ground and Differences: Students

Strict Smartphone Policy	Common Ground	Lenient Smartphone Policy
<p>55% support a strict policy where smartphones are turned off and put away from the moment students enter campus until they leave.</p>	<p>Both sides agree that smartphone use during the school day causes significant distractions, as evidenced by 87% either agree or strongly agree with this statement. This common ground highlights a shared concern for the negative impact of smartphones on student focus and classroom management.</p>	<p>25% prefer a more lenient policy where smartphones are turned off and put away during class but can be used during passing periods and lunch.</p>

Next Steps for Consideration

- New district policy vs. existing school site rules limiting distractions during class
- Provide consistent classroom storage vs. classroom teacher choice
- Develop progressive disciplinary steps, up to and including confiscation of smartphones
- Differentiation between elementary, middle, and high school
- Communication to the community

Staff Recommendations

- Elementary Schools: Continue with existing practices (smartphones away during school hours)
- Middle Schools: Implement consistent practices for middle school sites, consistent with Millswood Middle School (2025-26)
- High Schools: Smartphones put away in class and can only be used during passing periods and lunch (2025-26)
- New district supports:
 - Creation of Board Policy if/when AB 3216 becomes law
 - Support high schools that want to pilot beginning January 2025
 - Provide financial support for storage

