

CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOLS

A survey of South Carolina teachers on the impact of cell phone use in classrooms.

JUNE 2024

WHO RESPONDED?

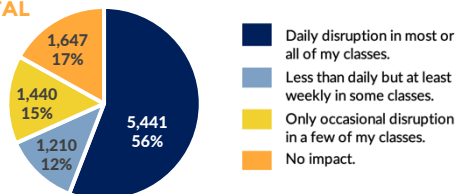
Between May 27 and June 7, **9,738** teachers responded to a four-question survey, sent to all educators statewide, about their experiences with student cell phone use in their schools. The responses spanned **4,816** elementary, **2,834** middle, **1,785** high, and **303** administrative and support staff. Teachers also had the opportunity to provide open-ended feedback on the topic. Major themes of their responses are described below.

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

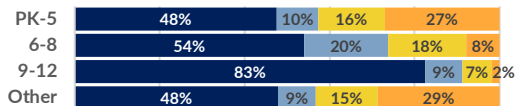
1

What phrase best described the effect of cell phone use on your classes?

TOTAL



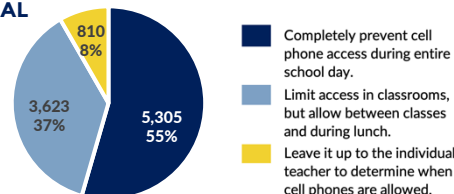
BY GRADE LEVEL



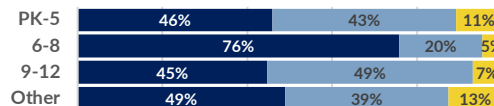
2

To be effective, a cell phone policy should...

TOTAL



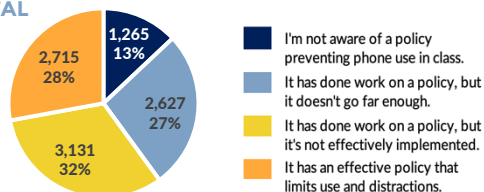
BY GRADE LEVEL



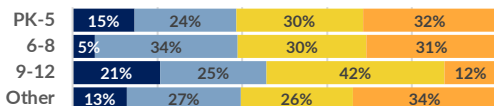
3

What phrase best describes your school or district's handling of cell phones?

TOTAL



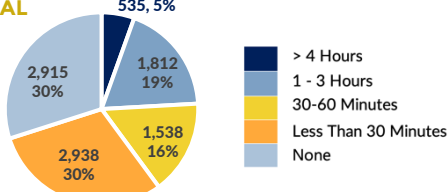
BY GRADE LEVEL



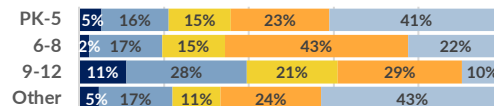
4

How much daily instructional time is lost due to cell phone use or related distractions?

TOTAL



BY GRADE LEVEL



WHAT MAJOR THEMES EMERGED?

Behavioral and Social Issues • Distraction from Learning • Cheating and Academic Dishonesty • Complete Ban Support • Cyberbullying and Inappropriate Use • Differentiated Policies by Grade Level • Safety Concerns • Impact on Discipline • Impact on Classroom Management • Impact on Teacher Morale • Inconsistent Enforcement • Need for State-Wide Policies • Need for Stronger Consequences • Negative Social Impact • Parental Involvement and Communication • Policy Enforcement Challenges • Positive Impact of Bans • Professional Development and Training • Support for Educators • Teacher Frustration • Use of Technology in Education