

Formalizing Woodside's “Off and Out of Sight” Policy

Compliance with the Phone-Free Schools Act (AB 3216)

Why Formalize Now?



The Legal Mandate

July 1, 2026 Deadline

The Phone-Free Schools Act (AB 3216) requires strict compliance. We are formally adopting our long-standing, effective practices into official Board Policy 5131.8 to meet this state mandate.



The Educational Imperative

Protecting Student Focus

Unrestricted use harms instructional programs. Formalization protects academic focus, reduces device-driven anxiety, limits cyberbullying, and fosters healthy, face-to-face social interactions.

Our Standard: "Off and Out of Sight"

The Core Expectation: Students may possess devices on campus, but they must remain powered down and securely stored in backpacks or lockers. The district assumes no liability for lost or stolen devices.



First Bell

Bell-to-Bell Timeline

Final Dismissal



Protected Zone: All instructional time, passing periods, and lunch.

Included Restricted Devices:



Smartphones



Smartwatches
(Cellular/Data)



Tablets &
E-readers



Connected
Earbuds

Mandatory Legal Exceptions

In accordance with Ed Code 48901.7

Emergency Situations

Permitted in the case of a true emergency or in response to a perceived threat of danger to the student.

Medical Necessity

Permitted when a licensed physician determines that device use is strictly necessary for a student's continuous health monitoring.

IEP / 504 Plans

Permitted when device use is specifically mandated by a student's Individualized Education Program or Section 504 plan.

Directed Instruction

Permitted when a teacher or administrator grants explicit, specific permission for educational purposes.



Updated Enforcement Framework

A Progressive, Support-Oriented Approach

1st Offense: Warning

Confiscation to the office for the day. Student retrieves device at final dismissal.

2nd Offense: Direct Conversation

Confiscation + Verbal Warning. Student must retrieve the device directly from the Principal.

3rd Offense: Family Escalation

Confiscation + Parent Escalation. Parent or guardian must pick up the device from the office.

4th Offense: Systemic Intervention

Student Study Team (SST) Intervention triggered. Creation of an Individual Device Plan, requiring mandatory daily check-in of the device to the office for a set duration.

Survey Data: Stakeholder Alignment

Staff Perspective (The Classroom Lens)

100%

of surveyed staff **support treating smartwatches exactly the same as smartphones.**

100% favor the **strict 'Off and Away' policy** over partial restrictions to protect instructional time.

Parent Perspective (The Safety Lens)

The Tension & Alignment

87% of parents highly value **devices** for commute safety, GPS tracking, and coordinating after-school pickups.

Despite this, **82%** of parents **actively support full restrictions inside the classroom to prevent prevent academic disruption.**

The Shared Conclusion:

During school hours, the device belongs securely in the backpack.

The Rising Threat of Smartwatch Disruption

Warning Gauge



Severity Score: 8.5/10 based on incident reports

The Academic & Social Impact:

65% of staff report "high" distraction.
42% increase in academic dishonesty cases involving smartwatches.
Significant erosion of face-to-face interaction.

Disruption Profile



The Illusion of "School Mode"

78% of students bypass parental controls to text, call, and view media during active class time.
Average lost instructional time per confiscation: 15 minutes.



Collateral Distraction

82% of students without devices report being distracted by peers' smartwatches.
30% of class time affected by buzzing, flashing, and messages. It is currently out of control.



Implementation Timeline



Phase 1: Board Approval

Formal adoption of Board Policy 5131.8 (Mobile Communication Devices).



Phase 2: Community Notification

Update student and parent handbooks.
Launch an educational campaign explicitly addressing smartwatch inclusions and parent expectations.



Phase 3: Full Implementation

Campus-wide rollout for the upcoming school year.
Staff training on consistent, campus-wide enforcement of the progressive discipline framework.