

For: The Parents and Grandparents of the 889,900 Maryland Public-School Students
The 23 County Superintendents of Schools in the State of Maryland
The 61,438 Maryland Public-School Teachers
The 1420 Maryland Public-School Principals
The Parents and Grandparents of all 49.9 million American Public-School Students
The Local School Superintendents in All 50 States and DC
National PTA Office
National PTO Office
National Education Association (NEA)
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

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Proposed Immediate PTA/PTO/Public Action

“No Phone Usage In or Between Classes”

Introducing My Problem-Solving Senate Campaign

With regard to my Maryland 2024 US Senate campaign, the expected public response to this proposal will demonstrate that an unknown candidate running for office can accomplish something for the voters even before being elected! This is only the first such problem solution I will be presenting for the voters to consider.

It also demonstrates that I am offering solutions that serve our citizens in ALL 50 STATES!

Purpose: To significantly and immediately reduce the known negatives effects of personal cell phone usage in the classrooms of the American public school system.

This program is also highly recommended for all church and private schools to seriously consider implementing. Community colleges and 4-year colleges and universities could consider this approach. It might actually help reduce their first-year drop-out rates!

The bottom line is that cell phones do not belong in public school classrooms. They have and are causing far more damage to student development and the basic learning process than we can allow to continue.

Benefits Could be Realized this School Year

1. Confronting student “near addiction” to their cell phones. Actually, removing the phones from their hands for hours at a time.
 - a. It is like a teenager learning to drive while holding their phone in one hand.
2. Reduced distractions in class. Won’t be checking their phone every time it beeps.
3. Greater focus on lesson activities. What a concept!
4. No typing or endless scrolling on their phone.
5. No bullying messages – sending or receiving! First offense students found to be sending bullying and/or other threatening messages while in school:
 - a. Will have their phone taken immediately and held until parent pickup.
 - b. They will also lose their right to have a cell phone in school for at least the rest of the current school year.
 - c. Each school will determine what if any disciplinary action will be taken.
6. No more drug transactions coordinated while in school. Really!
7. A given school’s academic performance be ratings will be improved.
8. Attendance problems could be reduced with a better day-to-day school environment.

Public School Cell Phone Usage Procedure:

The Keep It Simple Stupid (KISS) Method. Simple solutions are the best. Easiest to understand and to enforce.

1. This will apply to in-school students in all grades – K-12.
2. Students will be allowed to take a single personal cell phone into school.
3. All cell phones will be placed in lockers before class starts for the day or first period. They will be silenced when stored in the lockers. No ringing!
4. Student cell phones will **ONLY** be accessed and used during the Lunch Break. They will then be promptly returned to the locker when the Lunch Break is over. They will be silenced when stored in the lockers. No ringing!
5. Cell phones will be accessed by the students at the end of the class day or after last period.

Cell Phone Usage Violation Policy

1. First offense – If a given student is found using their phone either in class or between classes, the phone will be taken away from the student for the rest of that school day.

It will only be returned when picked up by the student’s parent(s).

2. Second offense – The same as the First Offence. Two chances to get it right.

3. Third offense – “Strike Three – They are Out”. If a given student is found, a third time, using their phone either in class or between classes, the phone will be taken away from the student for the rest of that school day.

It will only be returned when picked up by the student’s parent(s).

The student’s right to bring a cell phone to school will be revoked for the remainder of the current school year. Recommended policy.

Some schools may determine to make the suspension for a shorter fixed period of time, such as for 30 days.

As straightforward and as simple as that! An improved classroom and whole school environment for those 49.9 million American public-school students.

Two Sources of Likely Initial Concern and Opposition to be Addressed

1. Concern – The first and totally valid response will come concerned parents asking, “What if there is a crisis at the school? How will I contact my child?”

The simple answer is that they will not be able to communicate as they can now. Things cannot remain the same if our problem is to be fixed. Thankfully, the odds of a crisis happening in a given school are low.

It is a prudent and practical trade-off to improve their student’s daily learning environment.

However, every school room will have a “crisis phone” in the teacher’s desk area. Everyone will know it is there and where it is kept. It will not have a password, and so could be used by anyone in need of its use.

2. Opposition – The cell phone companies and social media providers. The phone companies want kids on phones and wearing them out so they will need to be replaced more often.

It will be interesting to watch how the Media Industry responds to what will certainly be a drop in usage, in clicks.

Intentionally, this solution requires no legislation that such companies would automatically try to block. Too bad for them... The kids win!!!

The Great PTA/PTO Challenge

So, there it is parents and grandparents. This common-sense, very near-term solution to a real and growing problem for our youth and society, is my challenge to PTA/PTO parents and grandparents.

Americans in all 50 States and DC, are challenged to bring this up in PTA, PTO, etc., meetings that you have in February, March and even into April. To discuss it and then to enact it immediately.

It doesn't involve the US Congress or any State or County legislation to put into daily practice in some 90,000+ Elementary, Middle, and High schools across our nation. And get this done by some day in March, if possible. The Parents, Principals, and the School Superintendents could make this happen in a matter of weeks. No budget concerns, either.

Most importantly, we should then expect that student academic performance will be improving in the 4th semester of this very school. You know, progress! And we will have implemented a practical policy that will be "normal" starting the 2024/2025 school year. Real progress!

And in between classes the students might actually begin talking to each other. What a concept!

So, let's go for it, parents and grandparents. I hope you have found this encouraging!

Pass this on to family and friends and teachers across the country. Do it for the kids...

There must and will be rules.

Thank you and take care,

A J Wildman

Westminster, MD resident; Maryland raised and back since 2011.

Maryland Democrat for US Senate 2024

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