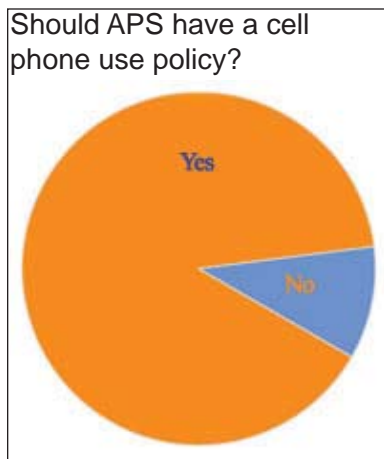


Community Overwhelmingly Backs APS Cell Phone Policy

Nine out of 10 people participating in an Albuquerque Public Schools survey support the district’s proposed cell phone policy that will allow students to have cell phones at school, but will require they be turned off or silenced during instructional time.

Of the more than 2,000 people who participated in the electronic survey, 90 percent said APS should have a cell phone policy, and 84 percent said it is



reasonable for schools to expect students to keep cell phones and other electronic devices powered off, silenced or concealed from view during the school day.

“Cell phones for our kids make parents feel safer. When there is a lockdown, emergency, or a bus missed it is

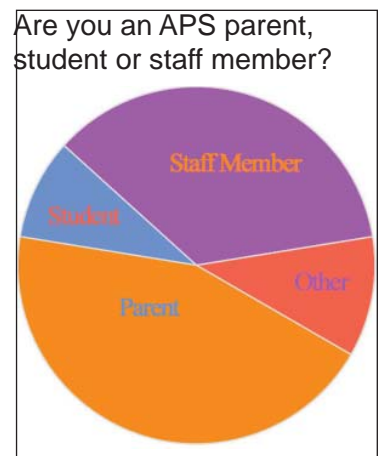
necessary for our kids to be able to reach us. I think they should be turned off during classroom time,” wrote one parent.

“I think we are being held hostage by parents and students regarding cell phone use. They are used for cheating and very inappropriate communication. The whole ‘emergency’ concern is blown way out of proportion. I don’t think they need cell phones at school at all,” wrote a teacher who participated in the survey.

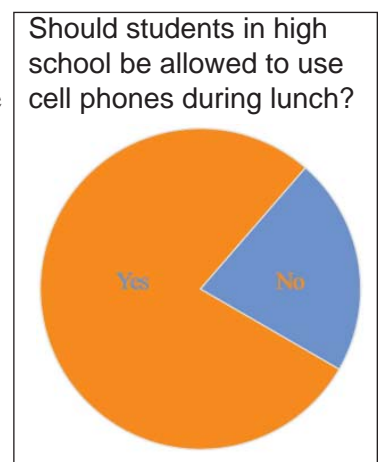
To address the issue of cell phones and electronic devices, the APS administration -- with input from principals at every level, school police, APD, students, the Attorney General’s Office, lawyers and others – has put together a draft of a district-wide policy that addresses rights, responsibilities and restrictions. The proposed policy was presented to the APS Board of Education Policy Committee, which encouraged the district to seek public input.

The electronic survey was part of that effort to

solicit public opinion on the topic. The survey was sent to school principals who were encouraged to post it to their schools’ websites and send it to parents. The survey also was included in the APS electronic employee newsletter and posted to the APS website from Feb. 26-March 5. Of the 2,046 people who participated in the survey, 44 percent identified themselves as parents, 36 percent were staff members, 9 percent were students and 11 percent identified themselves as “other.”

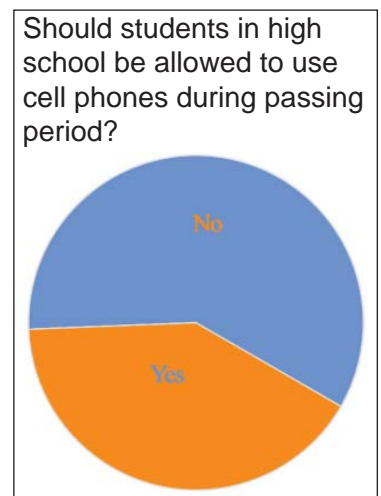


Three out of four survey participants said high school students should be allowed to use their cell phones and other personal electronic devices like iPods during lunch.



“It has been an invaluable tool for me and my daughter to communicate during her lunch period and after school. There are always issues regarding practices and games and if I can pick her up or not, as well as other issues,” wrote one parent.

However, only 41 percent felt it is appropriate for high school students to use the devices during passing period.



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Two out of three survey participants also said students should be allowed to use their cell phones and other electronic devices on school buses.

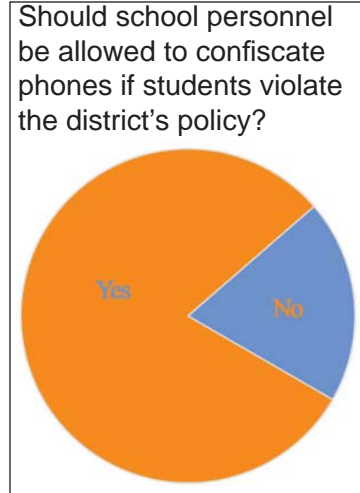
“I think students should be allowed to listen to iPods on buses to block out the noise,” wrote one parent.

“I think students should be allowed to use their cell phones on the buses in order to contact their parents,” added another parent.

Only a third of the participants felt the district should allow students to use cell phones and personal electronic devices on school property or at school-sponsored activities to access and/or view Internet websites that are otherwise blocked at school including Facebook, MySpace and YouTube.

The vast majority of survey participants – 80 percent

– also said that school personnel including teachers should be allowed to confiscate cell phones and other personal electronic devices if students violate the rules outlined in the district’s cell phone policy. However, many people asked that schools also develop a policy for retrieving the phones.



Suggested one participant, “Take the batteries instead of the phones.”

The policy will go back to the APS Board of Education for final approval. APS hopes to include the cell phone and electronic device policy in the 2010-2011 Student Behavior Handbook.

Summary of Survey on Proposed APS Cell Phone Use Policy

Are you an APS parent, student or staff member?
 Parent: 44 percent
 Student: 9 percent
 Staff Member: 36 percent
 Other: 11 percent

Yes: 41 percent
 No: 59 percent

Should APS have a Cell Phone Use Policy?
 Yes: 90 percent
 No: 10 percent

Is it reasonable for schools to expect students to keep cell phones and other personal electronic devices powered off, silenced and concealed from view on school buses?
 Yes: 36 percent
 No: 64 percent

Is it reasonable for schools to expect students to keep cell phones and other personal electronics powered off, silenced and concealed from view during the school day?
 Yes: 84 percent
 No: 16 percent

Do you think it is reasonable to restrict students from using cell phones and personal electronic devices on school property or at school-sponsored activities to access and/or view Internet websites that are otherwise blocked at school, including Facebook, MySpace and YouTube?
 Yes: 67.5 percent
 No: 33.5 percent

Do you think high school students should be allowed to use their cell phones and other personal electronic devices like iPods during lunch?
 Yes: 78 percent
 No: 22 percent

Do you think school personnel including teachers should be allowed to confiscate cell phones and other personal electronic devices if students violate the rules outlined in the district’s cell phone policy?
 Yes: 80 percent
 No: 20 percent

Do you think high school students should be allowed to use cell phones and other personal electronic devices like iPods during passing periods?