

In accordance with California's Phone-Free School Act (AB 3216), all public-school districts must adopt policies by July 1, 2026, that limit or prohibit phone use during school hours and contain guidelines for the following exceptions:

- Emergency situations;
- Health-related purposes or as required by an Individualized Education Plan/Section 504 Plan; or
- Instructional use explicitly authorized by educators.

Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District is committed to create learning environments that minimize distractions, elevate academic performance, and prioritize students' mental health and wellbeing. By limiting the use of phone during the school day, the District aims to reduce interruptions to learning, foster in-person connection among peers, and support healthy boundaries with technology.

Phone/Wearable Technology Free Policy

The use of phones, including all wearable technology, shall be prohibited district wide, in all grades TK-12, during the regular school day as indicated by each school's adopted bell schedule. Phones and wearable technology must be turned off during the instructional program and be kept out of sight, such as in a student's backpack.

Exceptions to this policy may apply based on the following circumstances:

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger, or if a caregiver is aware of a potential safety concern related to a current or future court case.
2. When a licensed physician and/or mental health professional determines that the possession or use of a phone is necessary for the health or wellbeing of the student.
3. When possession or use of a phone is required in a student's Individualize Educational Program (IEP) or section 504 plan.
4. When an educator authorized the use of a phone for the purpose of participating in or completion of an instructional activity

Phone/Wearable Technology shall be allowed outside of regular school hours, which may include but is not limited to the following circumstances:

1. When riding a district school bus to or from school, provided that phone/wearable technology use does not interfere with the normal operation of the bus
2. When arriving at school prior to the initial school bell, indicating the start of regular school hours
3. After the last dismissal bell when regular school hours have ended.
4. When participating in extracurricular activities, provided that the phone/wearable technology does not interfere with the extracurricular participation

High school students are permitted the use of phones/wearable technology under the following circumstances; before the first bell, during lunch and passing period, and after the dismissal bell, provided that the phone/wearable technology use does not cause a disruption to school activities

Enforcement

Enforcement of this policy will utilize Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), as well as Restorative Justice Practices (RJP), such as:

- Verbal reminders;
- Referral to a counselor/designee: or
- Contacting the parent/guardian to review the Phone-Free School Day policy with their student

Additional enforcement actions may include, but are not limited to:

- The classroom educator retains the phone/wearable technology until the end of the assigned instructional time
- The classroom educator delivers the phone/wearable technology to a site administrator or administration designee for retention until the end of the instructional day for a listed caregiver to retrieve. Inability to participate in school events and/or extracurricular activities when violations are ongoing and/or habitual