



Bullard High School

2022-2023

Smart Phone Use Policy

California Assembly Bill 272 added Education Code section 48901.7 to the law in 2020 which allows schools to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones and/or wearable technology, such as smartwatches, by students while at school. Beginning on September 1st of this 2022-2023 school year, Bullard will become a Smart Phone free learning environment. Our goal is to improve the climate and culture in our classrooms and on campus by eliminating Smart Phone distractions during instructional time. Students will keep their Smart Phones in pouches during the school day. Any student who does not own a Smart Phone must have a signed letter on file stating that a Smart Phone will not be brought to school. Students will place their Smart Phone in the pouch at the start of each school day and will be able to access their phone after their last class has ended. Smartwatches that have the ability to connect to cell service may also be asked to be placed in pouches at the start of the school day. Students must be in possession of their pouch at all times during the school day, even if they do not bring their phones to school. Unlocking/locking stations will be strategically located around campus and in every office. Students will be charged a \$20 replacement fee if the pouch is lost or damaged, just like they would for a textbook.

Exceptions for student use of Smart Phones at school include:

- (1) In case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger. In such case students may unlock their pouch once they have reached safety.
- (2) When a teacher or administrator grants permission to a student to possess or use a Smart Phone, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by the teacher or administrator.
- (3) When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that possession or use of a Smart Phone is necessary for the health or well-being of the student.
- (4) When the possession or use of a Smart Phone is required in a student's individualized education program.
- (5) Student is on an athletic team that is going to depart of a game, in which student will unlock their pouch in the main office or prior to getting on the bus.
- (6) Seniors with off campus lunch passes will unlock their pouches by a Campus Assistant who checks their ID at the exit gate.

1st Offense

Staff submits the online referral, then sends the student to Student Services for smartphone confiscation by Alpha VP. VP will contact parent. The student will pick up the phone in Alpha VP office after school. Student reviews smartphone free policy with administrator.

2nd Offense

Online referral to Alpha VP for confiscation, parent to pick up in Alpha VP office after school hours.

3rd Offense

Online referral to the Alpha Vice Principal for confiscation, parent to pick up after school hours in Alpha Vice Principals office. Parent and student to review smart phone free policy with administrator.

Note: **If at any time a student defies a school official and does not turn in the electronic device or refuses to use the pouch, student may be assigned additional consequences.



Parent FAQ's – Yondr Smart Phone Pouches

How do I communicate with my student?

- Because FUSD is a one-to-one district and each student has a laptop, parents can communicate with their students through their school or personal email or even MS Teams.
- Parents may contact the office and office assistants will run the message to the student.

What if my student qualifies for one of the exceptions?

- Students who qualify for any of the exceptions mentioned in the law, must show proof, and will be given a pouch with a Velcro enclosure and an exception card.

What about seniors who go out to lunch?

- Seniors who are eligible to go out to lunch will be able to unlock their pouches on their way out of the parking lot. We want them to have their phones available when off campus. Expectation is for them to lock them back up as they enter their 5th period.

What if my student has to go to CART?

- Students who attend CART can unlock their phones in the main office or counseling office prior to leaving campus.

What about student athletes that leave early for a game?

- Student athletes will be able to unlock phones in the main office or counseling office before getting on the bus or leaving school.

What if my student doesn't have a cell phone or smartphone?

- Students who don't have a cell phone or smartphone, must fill out a form stating so. Student will still be issued a pouch and will be expected to always keep the pouch in their possession. A laminated card will be provided to the student to show staff that they will not have a smartphone in their pouch.

Where will unlocking devices be located?

- There will be unlocking stations strategically placed around campus near exits of buildings and exits of campus. Unlocking devices may also be in each classroom in case of an emergency.
- Unlocking devices will also be in main office, counseling office, and the library.

What if there is an emergency on campus?

- In case of an emergency, we direct our students to safety first. School staff will be able to unlock a Yondr pouch in a matter of seconds for students once they are in a safe and secure location.
- In the event Yondr pouches are in use during an emergency, pouches are allowed to be damaged or destroyed to reach their cell phone at no cost to the student.



Student FAQ- Yondr Cell Phone Pouches

Why is this being implemented at Bullard?

This is an effort to improve the learning environment, reduce classroom distractions, and foster better relationships on campus. Among schools that have implemented Yondr cell phone pouches, 69% of them saw an improvement in academic performance, 84% of them saw an increase in student engagement in the classroom, and 80% saw a decrease in behavior referrals. Our goal at Bullard is to increase the opportunities for quality learning and engagement and this plan contributes to that goal.

When do I need to lock my phone?

You will insert your phone in your pouch and click the button on your pouch to lock it as you are entering your first period class. Your teacher will have you hold up your pouch when you enter the room.

When will my phone be unlocked?

After school or last instructional period of the day. There will be multiple stations around campus to unlock your phones as you leave. If you are involved in after-school activities, you will still be able to unlock it right after school. Students with an open 6th period can unlock their phones at a station near Student Services.

If I have an off-campus lunch pass, am I allowed to unlock my phone at lunch?

Yes, you will be able to unlock your phone before you leave, either in the North Parking Lot or the Palm gate.

If I am in CART, can I and where can I go to unlock my phone before I leave?

Yes, students that go to CART can go to the Counseling or Main Office to get their pouches unlocked prior to leaving for CART.

What if we get caught with our phone?

You will be sent to student services with a pass to be seen by a Vice Principal to discuss the cell phone policy and have your phone confiscated. Your parent or guardian will need to pick up your phone. You may also be assigned detention. Consequences change based on the number of times you are caught with a phone out.

What if there is an emergency on campus?

In case of an emergency, we direct our students to safety first. School staff will be able to unlock a Yondr pouch in a matter of seconds for students once they are in a safe and secure location. In the event Yondr pouches are in use during an emergency, pouches are allowed to be damaged or destroyed to reach their cell phone at no cost to the student.

What if we forget our pouch?

You will be sent to Student Services with a pass to receive a loaner pouch.

What if we damage our pouch?

The pouch is property of Bullard. You will be charged \$20 for any lost or damaged pouches. Treat this as if it were a district laptop or textbook. It is your responsibility to care for it

What if we need to call our parent/guardian/younger sibling while in school?

You will need to go to the office to make any calls during the school day. If you must go during class, teachers will send you with a pass. You can also communicate with your sibling via school email or TEAMS chat if they also have their devices.

What if my phone rings while it's in my pouch?

You will be sent to student services with a pass to silence your phone.