



**We Are Your Schools**



**YONDR**

PHONE-FREE SCHOOLS



**CIESC**

CENTRAL INDIANA EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

# YONDR

## YOUR TEAM



**JOSELYN WHITESIDE**  
**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**



**JOHNNY FOSTER**  
**PARTNER SUCCESS MANAGER**



**STEPHEN BLACKBURN**  
**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**



**DR. MARK D. DANIEL**  
**SUPERINTENDENT**



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## TODAY'S AGENDA

- How did we get here?
- Common hurdles with going phone-free
- Yondr Program Overview
- Key learnings about pre-planning, implementation and procedures
- Outcomes
- Q&A and Next Steps

# How We Got Here:

## *Phone Bans to BYOD to Phone-Free*



2007  
iPhone  
2008  
Android



2010  
Bring Your  
Own Device  
(BYOD)



Variable Ratio Reinforcement Schedule

2010  
Instagram  
2016  
TikTok  
2020  
BeReal

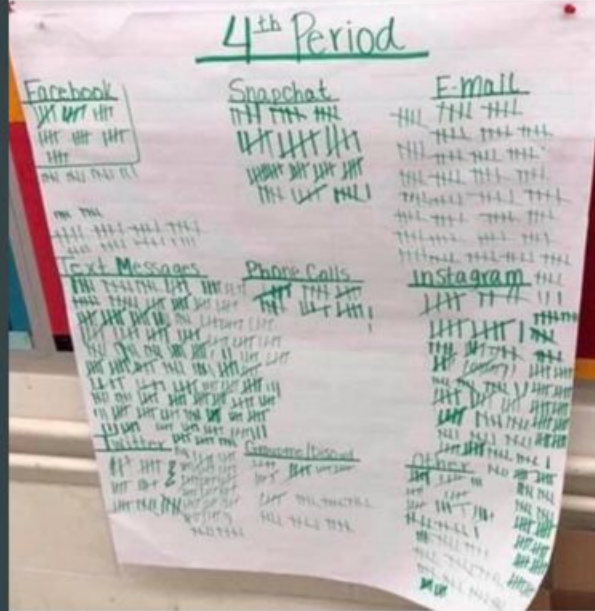


2020-2021  
Pandemic  
  
2022  
Post-Pandemic

# Before Phone-Free: Phone Bans to BYOD to Phone-Free

THIS IS EYE OPENING 🤔 A teacher in the U.S. had her students turn their phones on loud, and every time they received a notification they went up and put a tally mark under the correct category. This was one class, one period. Every one of these tally marks is an interruption in a students education.

Cell phones can be toxic to a learning environment. (Thank you to Mary Garza for her FB post)



Suzan Paton, Kansas-Missouri  
Superintendent Leadership Forum

# Before Phone-Free: *Phone Bans to BYOD to Phone-Free*

**50%+**  
of kids get  
**237 NOTIFICATIONS  
PER DAY**

Some receive as many as  
**4,500  
EVERY DAY!**

**23% occur during school**

Common Sense Media

**Facebook: 35**

**TOTAL:  
1,313**

**Snapchat: 66**

**Texts & GroupMe: 502**

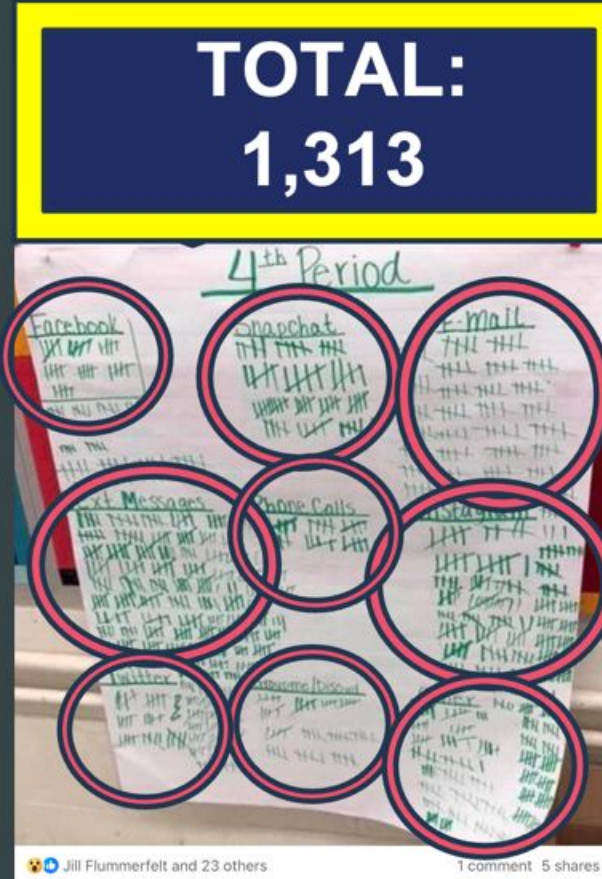
**Email: 155**

**Tweets: 135**

**Instagram: 209**

**Calls: 32**

**Other: 179**



Suzan Paton, Kansas-Missouri  
Superintendent Leadership Forum

Jill Flummerfelt and 23 others

1 comment 5 shares

# NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CELL PHONES ON STUDENTS



## 20 MINUTES

The time it takes for students to regain focus after a nearby cellphone distraction

*\*2023 UNESCO Study*



## 15 POINTS

The decrease in scores of mathematics students when distracted by phones

*\*PISA (2022)*



## 3 HOURS

The daily social media use that doubles anxiety and depression risks among youth

*\*US Surgeon General, 2024*



## 68 PERCENT

The percentage of students who report that electronic devices are distracting

*\*NIH Study, 2017*

# INDIANA SENATE BILL 185 EDUCATION POLICY BILL

Indiana public and charter schools must now implement a policy that prohibits students from using wireless communication devices such as cell phones, tablets, laptops, and gaming devices during instructional time, unless expressly permitted for educational purposes or emergencies. These policies must be developed at the local level and made publicly available, granting educators discretion in enforcement and providing exceptions for emergency, health, or individualized education plan (IEP) needs.



# BUT, PHONE BANS ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH.



*“Cellphone bans are in place in 75% of schools. But this high number [refers] to any school that tells students they should not use their phone while in class. **That’s not really a ban; it’s more of an unenforceable wish.**”*

– Jonathan Haidt,  
Author of “The Anxious Generation”

entendre or paradox  
exemplifies  
complete today's 3x3 Aim,  
your pithy and poetic thesis  
statement about Orange's

epiphany  
dichotomy  
enigma  
paradox  
deus ex machina  
synecdoche  
bildungsroman  
ambigu  
tposition  
polyptoton  
polysyndet

As I to seem you've passed a ball of time  
And I regard you as to learn tales  
I think you are I suffer'd in your chest  
O that our night of rest might have remained  
My heart some how but I'm not  
And when you are gone I'm the same  
The same who think I'm not the same  
And your lips a stage become a fire  
How I wish I were a man who could

"WE'VE TRIED PHONE BUCKETS, BOXES, CHARGING STATIONS. WHEN YOU PUT A PHONE POLICY IN THE HANDS OF A TEACHER, YOU'RE SETTING UP AN **ANTAGONISTIC RELATIONSHIP** WITH STUDENTS."

– REBECCA ROTHERY, ENGLISH TEACHER



**78% say their child is too focused on their phone.**

Screen time is crowding our presence and focus.



**77% regret not being more present due to their own phone use.**

A wake-up call that starts at home.



**89% say removing phones would improve learning and social skills.**

Phone-free classrooms lead to better outcomes.



**62% say their child uses a phone at school when they shouldn't.**

Rules aren't stopping phones in classrooms.



**56% support a full or bell-to-bell phone ban in schools.**

Strong backing for bolder school policies.



**81% want child development experts involved in phone policy.**

Families want research-driven solutions.

# SINCE 2014, **MILLIONS OF STUDENTS** HAVE BENEFITTED FROM A PHONE-FREE EDUCATION WITH YONDR.



**MILLIONS OF STUDENTS**  
USE YONDR DAILY



**SCHOOL PARTNERS**  
IN **35 COUNTRIES**



**AND ALL**  
**50 STATES**



## PHONE-FREE EQUIPMENT

- Pouches, Versatile Unlocking Bases, Medical Pouches, and Storage Accessories

## TRAINING AND SUPPORT

- Implementation Planning, Program Orientation, and Ongoing Support

## CURRICULUM RESOURCES

- Lesson Plans, Phone-Free Activity Guides, and Resource Libraries for Parents



WITH YONDR,  
IT'S A PARTNERSHIP.

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### Before phone-free?

- Policy - Lacking Consistency
- Teachers were responsible for enforcement

### What prompted change?

- Dr. Daniel saw the CBS Yondr spotlight
- Teachers were wanting support in the classroom

### First steps?

- Researched Yondr and Yondr-like solutions
- Discussed with the Board and Principals
- Conducted a teacher survey

### Hurdles?

- Full Board support
- Funding

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## Policy and Building Procedures?

- Created uniform District-wide policy
- Developed an Action Initiative Plan

## Implementation Phases?

- Pilot in two high schools and two middle schools
- Conduct review of pilot
- Present pilot results to the Board
- Develop District-wide implementation plan

## Key Learnings?

- Allow schools to choose homeroom-to-homeroom or take home
- Administrator support is crucial
- Arrival procedures are critical for success

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Middle School Behavior Results



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**Middle School Behavior Violations**  
**Percent Change From 23-24 to 24-25**

Middle Schools	
Infraction	Percent Change
Cellular Phones	-64.44%
Chronic Talking	30.99%
Disorderly Conduct	-25.46%
Disrespectful Behavior	6.44%
Fighting	-14.43%
Insubordination	-9.26%
Intimidation/Threats/Bullying	6.44%
Other	-5.56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-11.09%</b>

**Northwood Middle School**

Infraction	2023-24	2024-25	Percent Change
Cellular Phones	2		-100.00%
Chronic Talking	4	6	50.00%
Disorderly Conduct	161	55	-65.84%
Disrespectful Behavior	130	93	-28.46%
Fighting	151	75	-50.33%
Insubordination	220	105	-52.27%
Intimidation/Threats/Bullying	59	41	-30.51%
Other	80	64	-20.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>-45.60%</b>

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## High School Behavior Results



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# High School Behavior Violations Percent Change From 23-24 to 24-25

Infraction	Percent Change
Cellular Phones	-42.48%
Chronic Talking	161.76%
Disorderly Conduct	-18.47%
Disrespectful Behavior	12.52%
Intimidation/Threats/Bullying	-2.89%

## Snider

Infraction	Percent Change
Cellular Phones	-33.11%
Chronic Talking	188.89%
Disorderly Conduct	2.35%
Disrespectful Behavior	-10.68%
Intimidation/Threats/Bullying	-13.46%

## Average Yearly GPA Change by Cohort Compared To Previous School Year

	Cohort 2027			Cohort 2026			Cohort 2025		
	2023-2024	2024-2025	Average GPA Change	2023-2024	2024-2025	Average GPA Change	2023-2024	2024-2025	Average GPA Change
North Side	2.27	2.30	0.03	2.27	2.48	0.21	2.47	2.68	0.21
Northrop	2.54	2.43	-0.11	2.44	2.67	0.23	2.59	2.75	0.16
Snider	2.84	2.79	-0.05	2.62	2.93	0.31	3.00	3.03	0.03
South Side	2.12	2.31	0.19	2.10	2.37	0.27	2.35	2.49	0.14
Wayne	2.27	2.38	0.11	2.43	2.47	0.04	2.55	2.95	0.40
All High Schools	2.43	2.46	0.03	2.39	2.62	0.23	2.62	2.80	0.18



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# ***FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY***

## ***SCHOOLS***

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Our Current Policy - [FWCS Student Phone Policy](#)

Parent/Guardian Resources - [FWCS Parent Yondr Resources](#)

Student Instructions - [Student Instructions](#)



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# ***FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS***

## Feedback

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- Students are engaged with each other and the lesson - FWCS teacher
- I believe kids are able to focus more on work without cell phones and less drama with kids reporting everything - FWCS parent
- It was not a big deal - FWCS student
- More homework completed, and **WAY LESS** drama from social media - FWCS teacher



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# ***FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY***

## ***SCHOOLS*** Feedback (cont.)

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- We no longer have students recording fights, coordinating meetups before/after school/bathroom, reduction in theft, increase in student engagement, or contacting their parents which results in them calling the school - FWCS teacher
- I feel very neutral but I still wanted to use my phone, but it wasn't as horrible as I thought before we got them - FWCS student
- Enforce it. Talk more about the benefits! - FWCS parent



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (PROCEDURAL)

- What happens in the event of an emergency?
- Do other magnets work on Yondr Pouches?
- What about smartwatches and headphones?
- How will you continue to fund this?

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (POLICY)

- What if a student's phone is seen outside of their Pouch?
- What if a student damages their Pouch?
- What if a student forgets their Pouch?

# QUESTIONS?

# NEXT STEPS

- Get in touch (email/phone →)
- Connect further with a current Yondr school
- Engage with your school community
- Take phone management off of your teachers' plates



## THANK YOU

Stephen Blackburn

Email:

[stephen@overyondr.com](mailto:stephen@overyondr.com)

317-459-4961

Joselyn Whiteside

Email:

[joselyn@overyondr.com](mailto:joselyn@overyondr.com)

502-303-4553