



Memorandum to the Board of Education

Meeting in Public

FROM: Peter Dubinsky, Superintendent
DATE: February 15, 2024
SUBJECT: Cell Phone Restrictions in Schools

For Information

Introduction

On Friday, January 26, 2024, Premier Eby and Minister of Education and Childcare Singh announced new safety initiatives, including plans to restrict cell phone use in schools. The Ministry will work with school districts to ensure all schools have policies in place by the start of the next school year to restrict students' cell phone use in the classroom.

Ministry of Education and Child Care Cell Phone Restrictions

The new requirements are to:

- create consistency provincially.
- create classroom space for focused learning and interpersonal connection with fewer distractions and interruptions.
- support students in learning how to use cell phones responsibly and respectfully outside of instructional time.
- help keep students safe from online threats and the harmful impacts of social media.

The Ministry is currently looking at mechanisms that will require school boards to address student cell phone use potentially in their codes of conduct while ensuring School Boards have the autonomy to develop an approach that best fits their school communities' needs.

These changes will be in place for the start of the 2024/25 school year.

Through Safer Schools Together, The Ministry is offering [Digital Literacy Training](#) for students and families on "Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities."

Conclusion

The Board should consider all information received from the Ministry and other relevant sources and analyze the information as it is received to determine the next steps in the process.