

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS AND UPDATED POLICIES CONCERNING  
STUDENT CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOLS**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION NO. 2447-3**

**WHEREAS**, conversations are being generated among community members and [policymakers](#) concerning the use of cell phone in schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the excessive use of smartphones among youth has been linked to increased anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns, negatively impacting student well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, [a recent survey by the Pew Research Center](#) indicates that 72% of high school and 33% of middle school teachers identify cell phone distractions as a major issue in classrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, [Common Sense Media reports](#) that 97% of students use their phones during the school day for an average of 43 minutes, contributing significantly to classroom disruptions; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Surgeon General has [issued warnings](#) about the risks associated with social media, highlighting the urgency of establishing reasonable guardrails for smartphone use in educational settings; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) and County Superintendent of Schools do not advocate for a complete ban on phones on campus, we support creative and tailored solutions to prevent smartphones from becoming a distraction within the classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCBOE encourages districts to engage in conversations with students and families when considering new policies and to implement any policy changes in partnership with students, families, and teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, [Assembly Bill 272](#), enacted in 2019, empowers California school districts to adopt policies regulating the use of smartphones during school hours to minimize distractions and promote a conducive learning environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Legislature is considering additional bills, such as [Senate Bill 1283](#), which authorizes school governing boards to limit social media use on campus, and [Assembly Bill 3216](#), which mandates local school districts to develop their own policies to limit or prohibit the use of cell phones during the school day; and

**WHEREAS**, schools and districts throughout California have implemented a range of policies, from “Off and Away” policies that require phones to remain in student backpacks during class to policies that secure devices during the school day; and

**WHEREAS**, some schools and districts that have implemented thoughtful policies to limit use during instructional time have reported improvements in test scores, grades, student engagement, and reductions in bullying and property damage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education’s (SCCOE) Integrated Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (iSTEAM) department offers [courses and supports](#) in Digital Literacy and Citizenship which can help teachers and their students learn how to use technology responsibly; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE remains committed to the mental, physical, and social well-being of young people; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools encourage all school districts within Santa Clara County to leverage the authority granted by AB 272 to implement policies that limit non-instructional smartphone use during the school day in collaboration with teachers, students, and families, thereby enhancing academic focus and face-to-face interaction among students; and now

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution reflects the commitment of the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools to foster educational environments where students can thrive academically and socially, free from the distractions and pressures of smartphones and social media, which can undermine student well-being.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on September 4, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Sreekrishnan

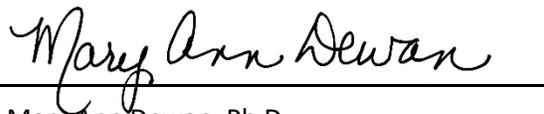
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools