# Less Media. More Social.

Devices off

Engagement on

Stillwater Area Public Schools’

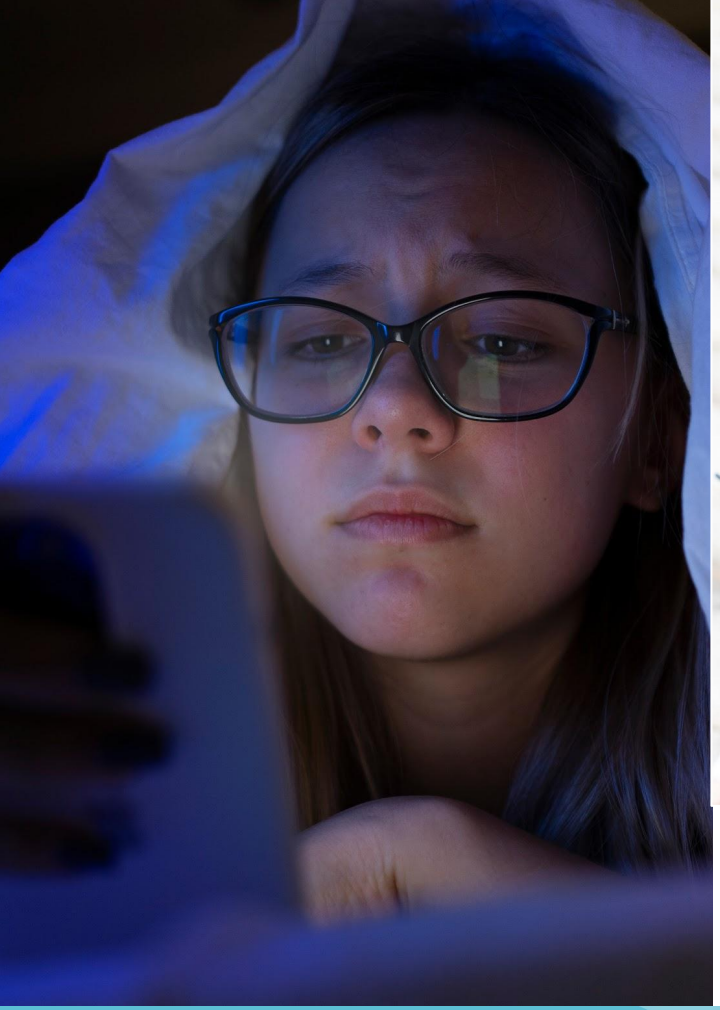
# Journey To Phone-Free Schools

# Legislative Mandate

**School cell phone policy:**
Requires districts and charter schools to adopt a policy on students' possession and use of cellphones in school by March 15, 2025.

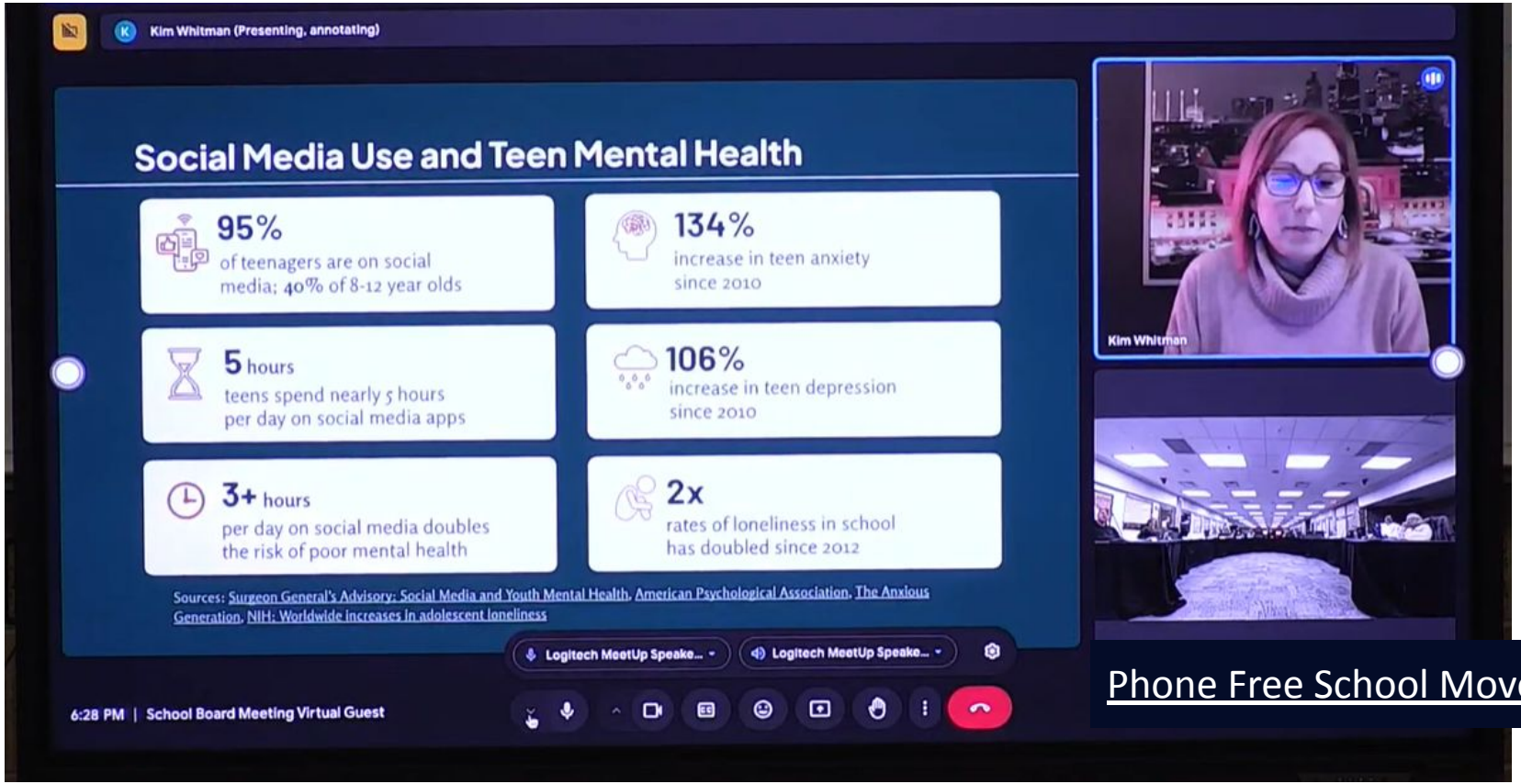
# School Board Priorities:

- Improve **student success**
- Address student and staff **mental and physical health**
- Operate in a **fiscally responsible manner**



Nearly **30%** of our middle and high school students indicated they have **long-term mental health, behavioral or emotional problems**

# Doing Our Homework




Phone Free School Movement

# Managing Change

- Listening to our community
  - Staff meetings
  - Community ThoughtExchange
  - Community conversations
  - Student surveys
- Transparent, inclusive communication
- Gradual, supported implementation

| Implementation Timeline | |
|---|---|
| Research | Aug - Oct |
| Initial Communication | Nov |
| Community Engagement | Nov - Jan |
| Draft policy | Dec - Jan |
| Feedback on Policy | Jan - Feb |
| Board approval | March 11 |
| Implementation Planning | April - July |
| Communication Campaign | July - Sept |

# Community Input on Phone Policy

**3,970**
respondents shared their feedback

*Data collected Nov. 27 - Dec. 21, 2024*

- **Student survey**:
  2,918 students *(grades 6-12)*
- **Staff survey:**
  513 staff districtwide
- **Online ThoughtExchange**:
  433 parents and 106 “other” community members

# Policy 524.5: Personal Electronic Communication Devices

1. All students (preK-12) are **prohibited from using personal electronic communication devices** - including phones, smart watches, earbuds, etc. - on school premises **from the first bell of the school day to the last**. This includes instructional time, lunch periods, recess, school-sponsored programs, events or activities, or any other time during the designated school day.
2. All personal electronic communication devices shall be **kept in designated areas** and turned off.

***Approved March 4, 2025***

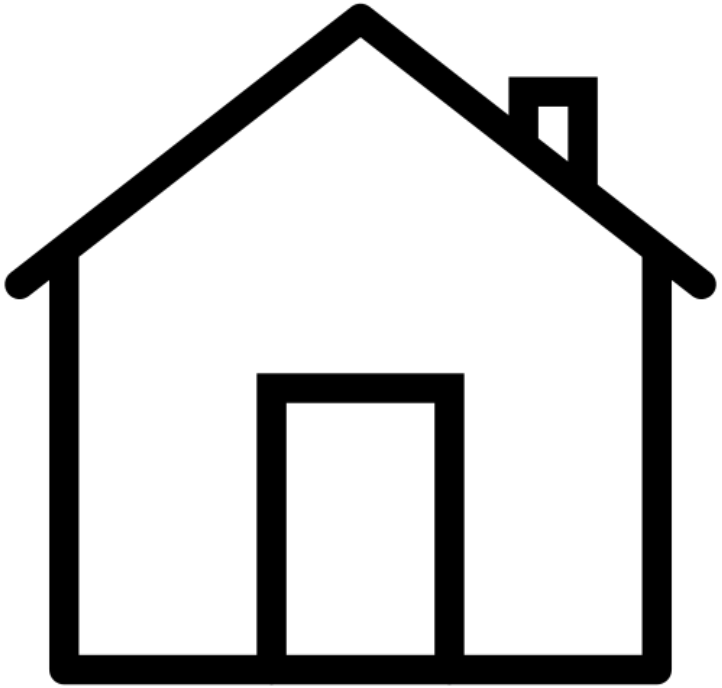
# Implementation

- Internal Implementation Committee
- Principals worked with staff to develop building-specific implementation plans
- All staff trained prior to start of school
- District-wide communication campaign for students and families
- Ongoing feedback/evaluation

## Initiative Implementation Checklist

**Initiative:** _____ **Owner:** _____

| Initial Strategy | Yes | No | Details/Attachments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Have you identified who this initiative is meant to serve? (ie. specific student population) | | | |
| Have you identified which strategic priority this initiative aligns with? | | | |
| Has a timeframe for the initiative been established? | | | |
| Have all participants/key stakeholders been identified? | | | |
| **Resources** | **Yes** | **No** | **Details/Attachments** |
| Have materials/resources/technologies been identified? | | | |
| Have all necessary resources been secured? | | | |
| Has a rollout plan been established to distribute resources? | | | |
| **Training** | **Yes** | **No** | **Details/Attachments** |
| Have training needs been identified? | | | |
| Has an initial training plan been established? | | | |
| Have process participants been briefed and prepared? | | | |
| Is a plan in place to provide ongoing training? | | | |
| Is a plan in place to provide training for new staff in the future? | | | |
| **Communication** | **Yes** | **No** | **Details/Attachments** |
| Have key stakeholders been informed/engaged? | | | |
| Has a communication plan been developed? | | | |
| Have potential risks/challenges been identified? | | | |
| Has a strategy been developed to mitigate/manage risks? | | | |



# Leave Devices At Home!

# Bring A Device? Lock It Up

- Students who choose to bring their devices to school are responsible for turning them in at the start of the day
- Devices will be turned off and stored in designated area throughout the school day
- Students will retrieve their phones/devices at the end of the day

NOTE: *Procedures are school-specific. Details will be shared with families prior to the start of the school year.*

Students who choose to bring a device to school at their own risk.

School and/or school staff is **not liable for lost, stolen, or damaged devices**.

# Response To Non-Compliance

**If a student is found with a device during school day:**

1. Staff will take the device to the Main Office for secure storage
2. The violation will be documented

## Response for Repeated Violations

- **1st and 2nd Offenses:**
  - A parent/guardian must retrieve the device in person; Policy and behavior matrix (progressive response) will be shared with families, parent education resources
- **3rd Offense:**
  - Mandatory conference with the student, parent/guardian, and administration; Response plan developed with family; Possible referral to an education program to address patterns of inappropriate device use

# Policy Exceptions

- Use allowed under an **IEP, 504 Plan, or documented health care plan**
- Use allowed to monitor or address a health concern or medical condition upon permission granted by school administration
- Families will work with Student Support Services to determine if there is a need

# Other Ways To Communicate

- Parents and/or guardians who need to contact their student during the school day may do so by calling the main office
- A phone will be available in the main office for students who need to call their families during school hours
- School will contact family in event of incident/emergency

# Phone-Free Schools: Staff Expectations

**Staff play a key role in making this policy successful by:**

- Model phone-free behavior
- Reinforce student expectations
- Follow enforcement procedures

and for the most part they feel
really really positive about it

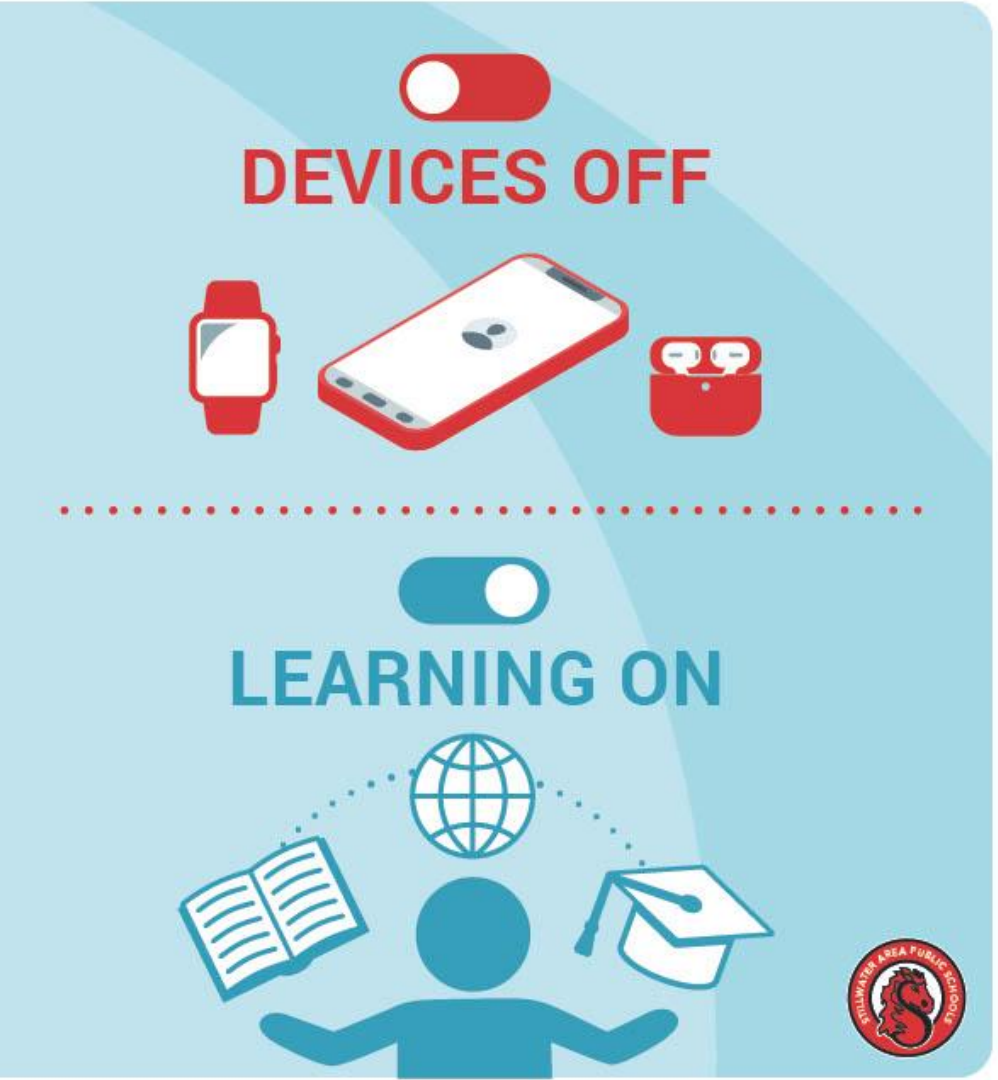
# Teacher Experience Survey

October 2025

**62%**
… said policy has impacted student engagement in classroom

**95%**
… felt goals and objectives of policy were clearly communicated

**97%**
… understand rationale for the policy

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