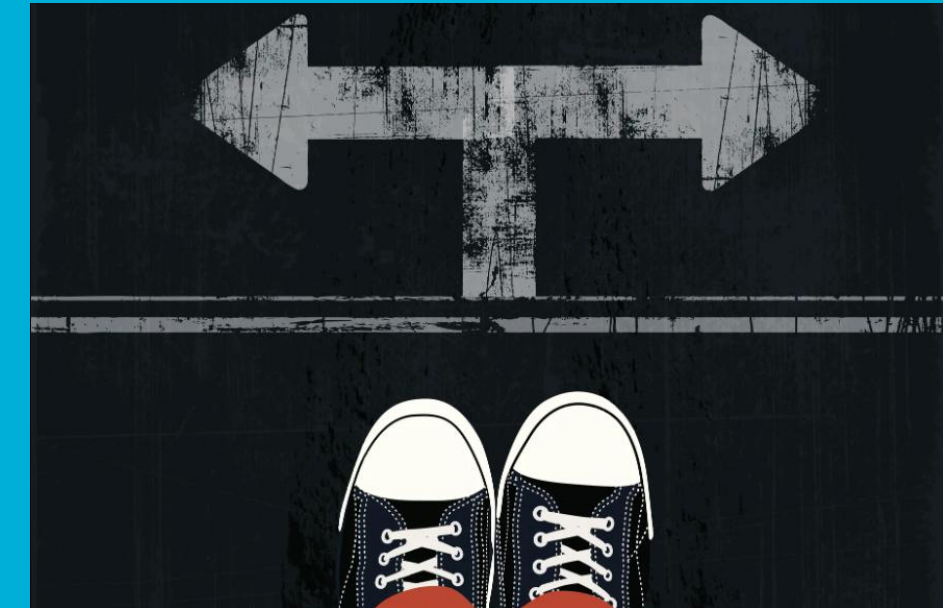


JULY 2026

AWAY FOR THE DAY CELL PHONE POLICY

STAND FOR CHILDREN'S

POLICY AREAS



AWAY FOR THE DAY
CELL PHONE POLICY

9TH GRADE SUCCESS
INITIATIVE

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO
DUAL CREDIT

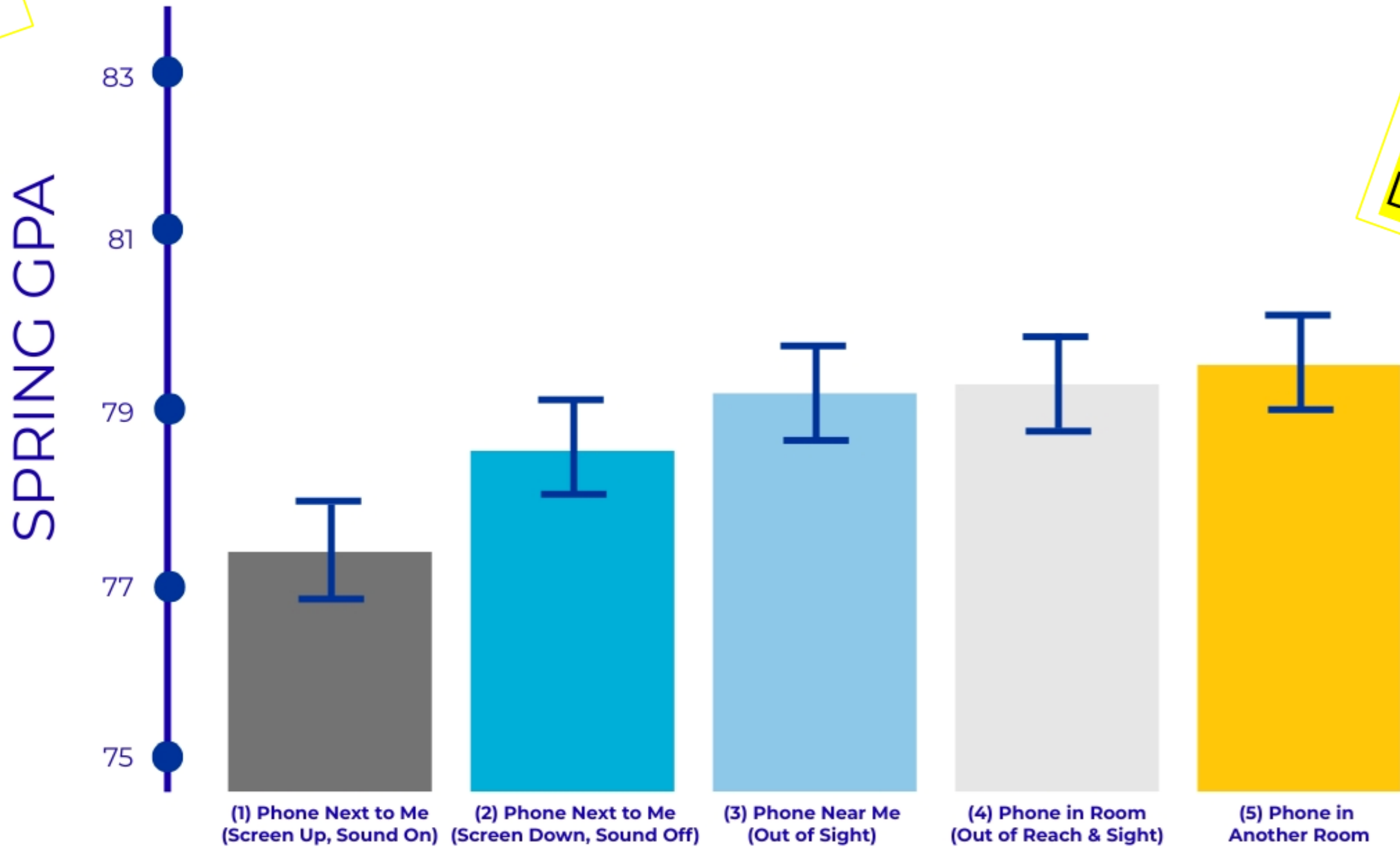
Justice Reform

Phones don't need to ring to be distracting and disruptive

THE FARTHER THE PHONE, THE HIGHER THE GPA

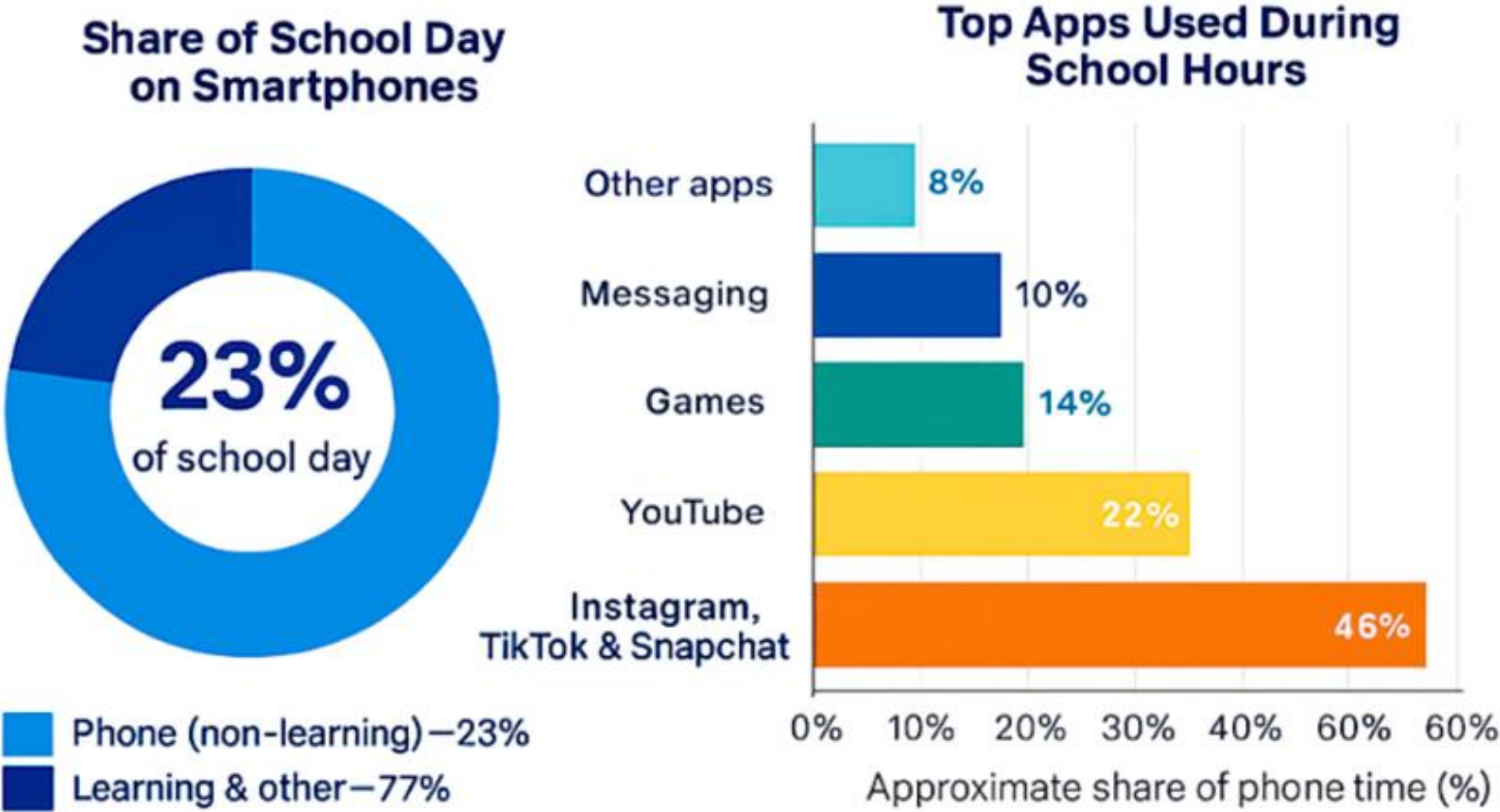
Not for Distribution

Example of
Upcoming Research
Report from Angela
Duckworth



High school students lose nearly **42 instructional days** to cell phones each year

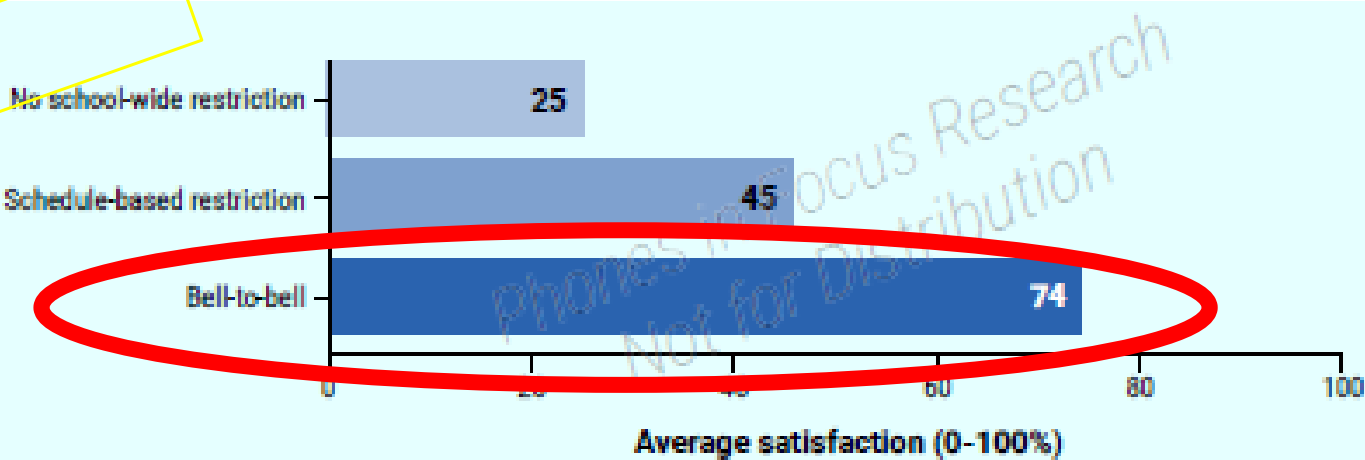
Source: Dr. Dimitri Christakis <https://www.seattlechildrens.org/research/featured-research/christakis-smartphone-use/>



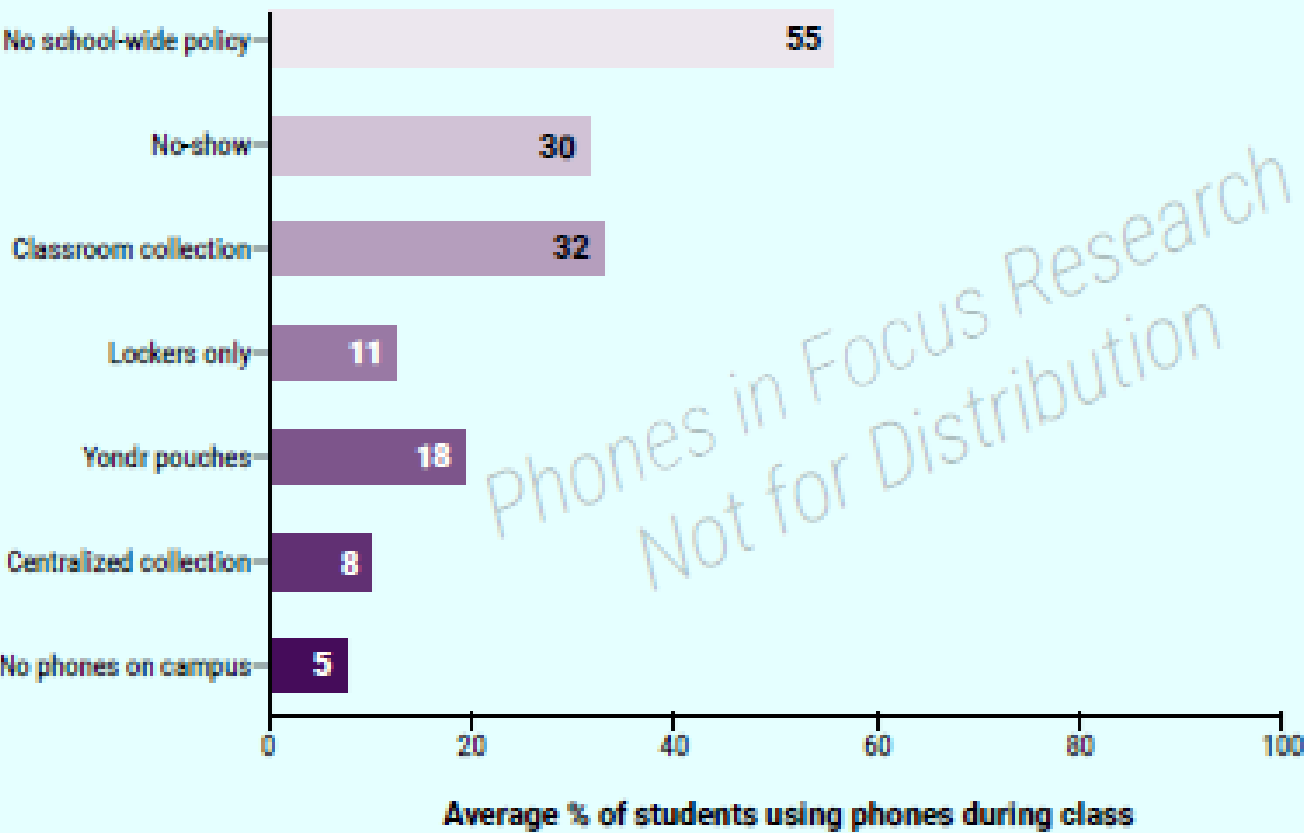
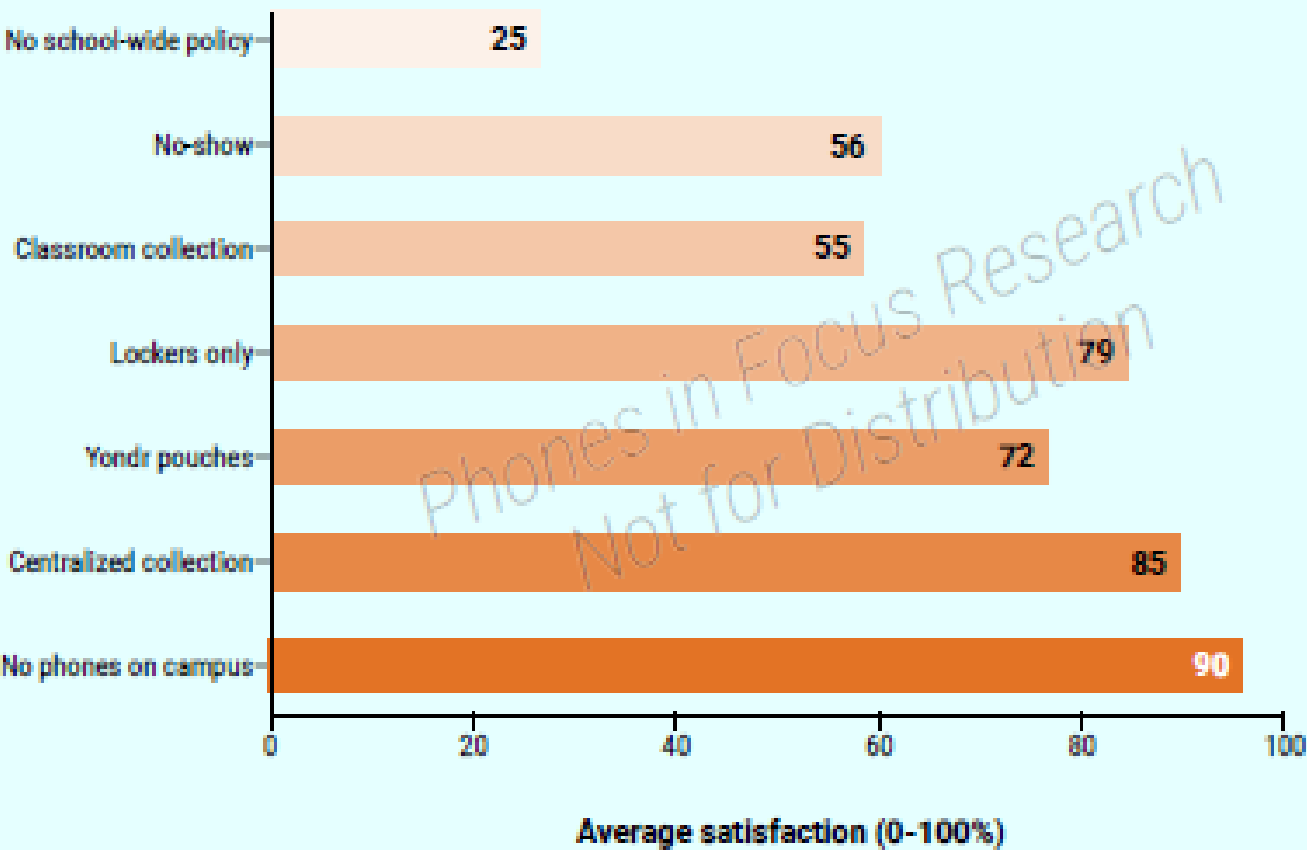
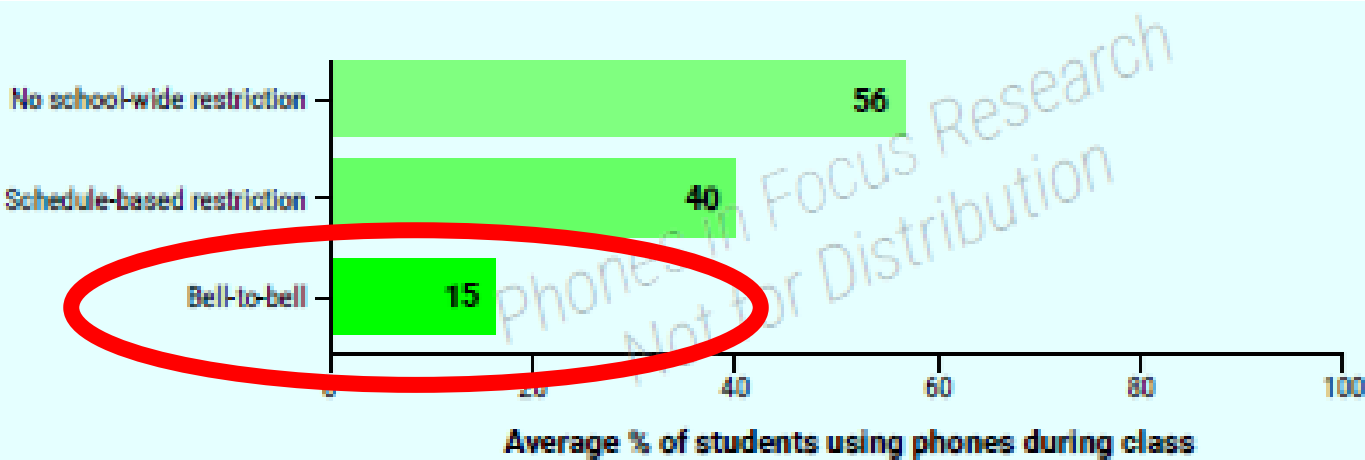
Stricter policy = increased educator satisfaction and student focus

Not for Distribution

Overall, how satisfied are you with your school's official cell phone policy?



During class, about how many students are using their phones for personal reasons (for example, texting, social media)? Give your best guess.



Note: Preliminary estimates based on 21,366 educators who responded to the phonesinfoocus.org survey in spring 2025. Data collection is ongoing.

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POLICY DESIGN MATTERS



Cell phones are turned off all day



Cell phones are physically stored away from the student



There is effective and consistent communication of the new policy to educators, parents, and students



There is strict enforcement with immediate consequences when cell phones are seen

Extensive research from Phones in Focus indicates there are four effective, easy-to-implement Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Policies:

No Phones at School

Cell Phone Lockers

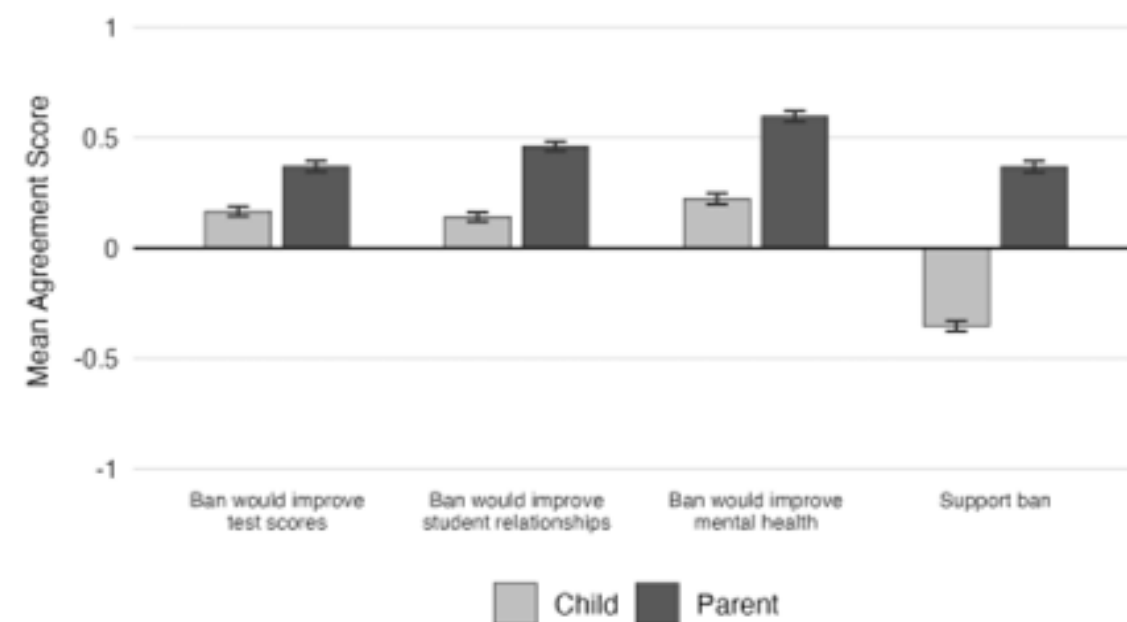
Lockers Only

Lockable Pouches

NBER Study

Impact of Yondr pouches

Figure 2: Parent and Student Attitudes Towards Phone Policies



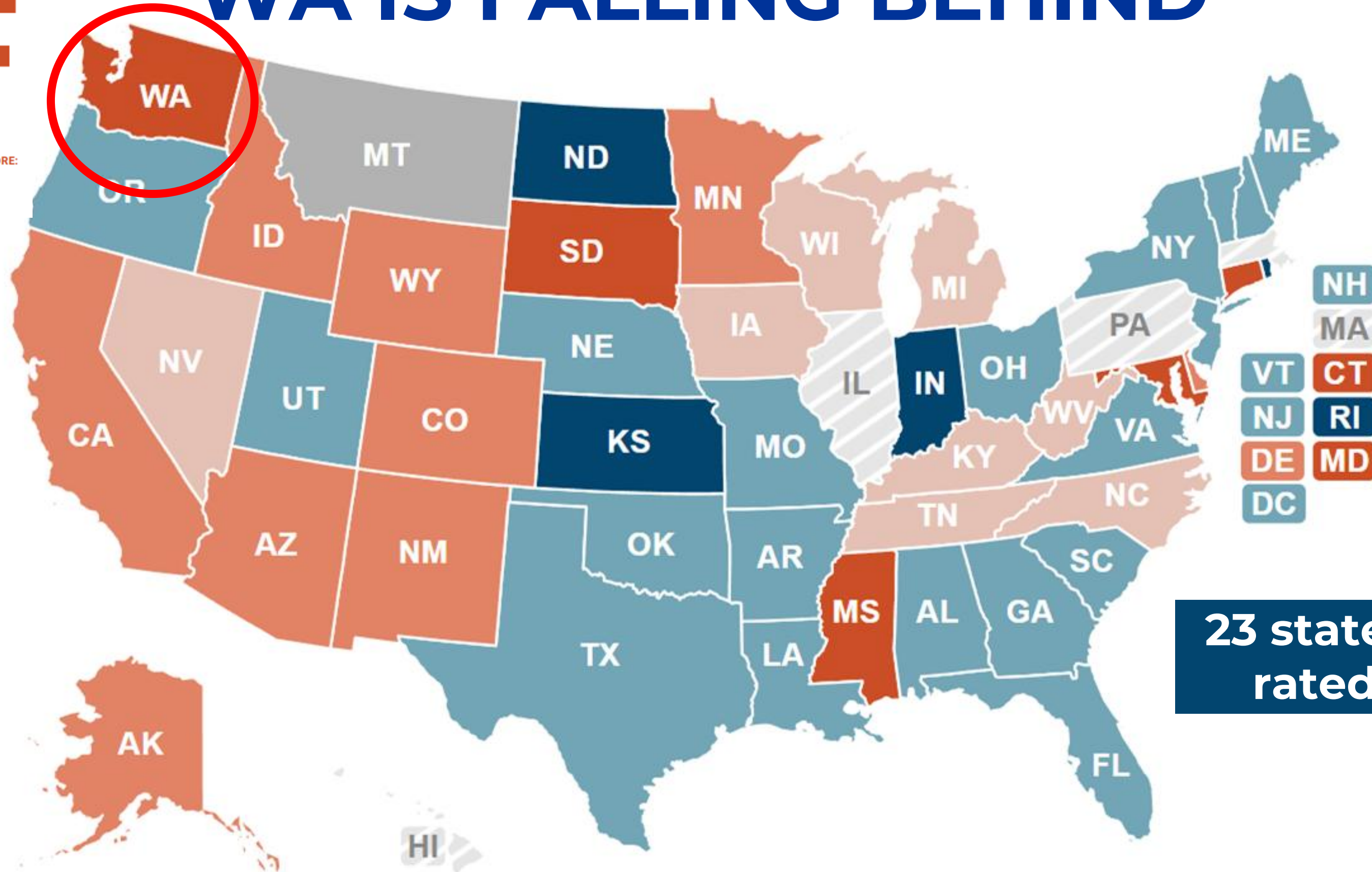
- Significant **reduction in phone use**
- Significant **increase in student mental health**
- Significant **increase in teacher satisfaction**
- No impact on attendance or test scores (not anticipated)



WA IS FALLING BEHIND

F

OVERALL SCORE:
50



23 states & D.C. are
rated an A or B

A	B	C	D	F	O	Incomplete
Bell-to-Bell, Inaccessible Storage	Bell-to-Bell, Accessible Storage	Class Instructional Time Only	Policy Required, No Mandated Elements	Bill Failed	No Bill Introduced	Bill Pending
90 – 99 PTS (4 States)	80 – 89 PTS (19 States + DC)	70 – 79 PTS (8 States)	60 – 69 PTS (9 States)	50 PTS (5 States)	0 PTS (1 State)	----- (4 States)

83%

of educators support “away for the day” cell phone policies



**CELL PHONE-FREE
SCHOOLS**
A GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

“Instead of focusing on school work in class, all I want to do is scroll on my phone. I felt isolated as everyone around me was locked on their screens. **After the phone ban at my school, my grades started rising, so did my attention in class, and my communication skills.**”

-Gabriella Barrett-Bowen, Washington Student

“As on OBGYN and mother of three I am very concerned about our student mental health crisis. There is mounting evidence that cell phone use is harming our kids.

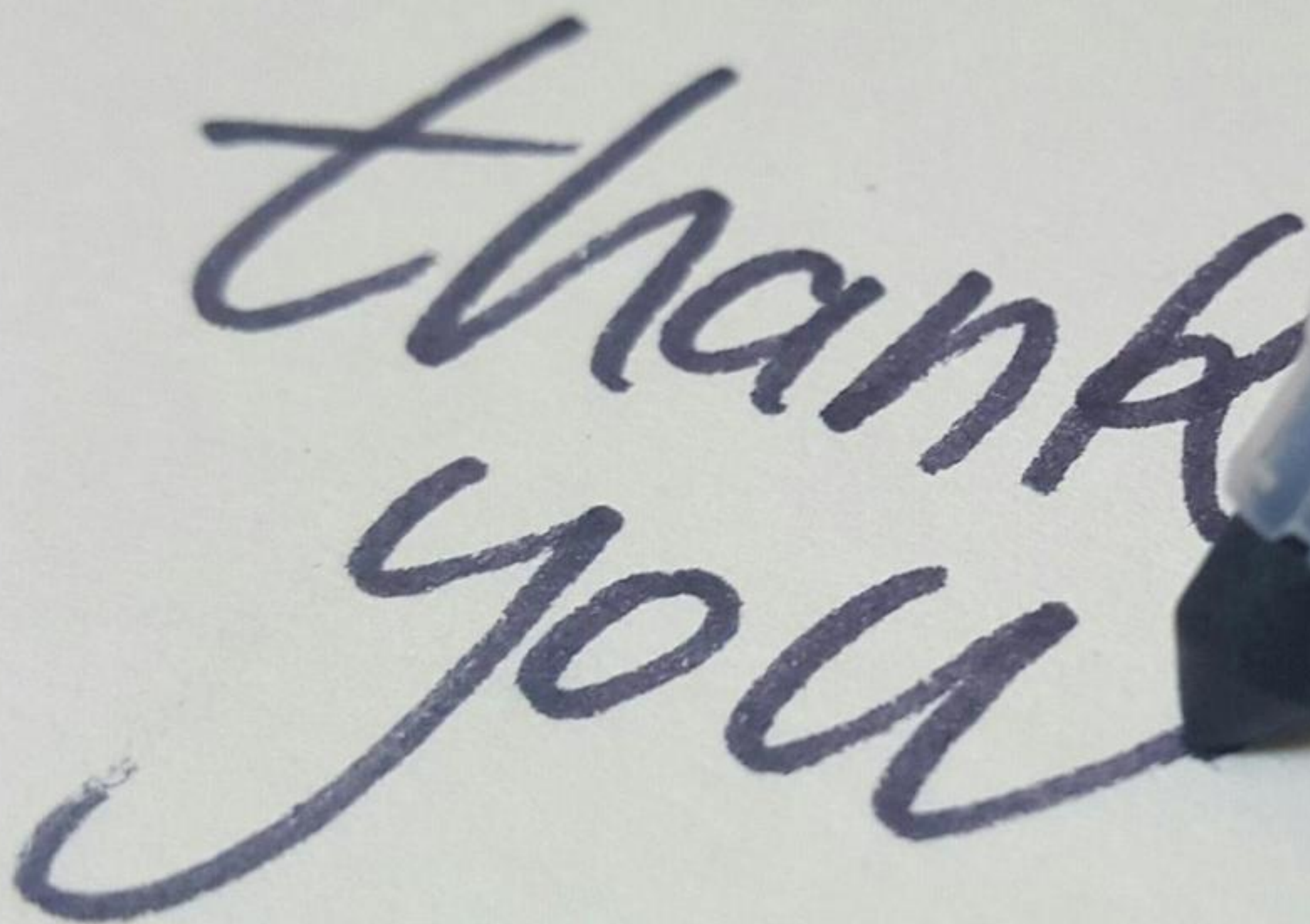
School is not a place for phones.”

–Miranda Eiseman, Washington Parent

"We went from **kids filming fights in the bathrooms to kids dancing and singing to karaoke at lunch.** That’s magical, and every kid deserves that opportunity."

-Zachary Stowell, Washington Principal

Stand for Children’s Guide for Educators



Thank
You

STAY IN TOUCH

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