

## Viewpoints

# California Limits Cell Phone Usage In School



California recently made headlines as it becomes the fifth state in the U.S. to pass legislation aimed at reducing cell phone distractions in K-12 classrooms. With one of the nation's largest population of students, California's move signals a growing recognition of the challenges that mobile devices pose to education.

Assembly Bill 3216, the Phone-Free School Act, requires every school district, charter school and county office of education to adopt a policy limiting or prohibiting the use of smartphones by July 1, 2026. The law will be codified in Education code section 48901.7 and provides exceptions such as when there are emergencies or threats or if possession of a cellphone is needed for medical reasons.

Research has shown that excessive cellphone use can hinder a student's ability to focus and engage in classroom activities. As schools prepare to implement these new policies, the hope is that students will reap the benefits of a more focused educational experience, ultimately paving the way for improved academic



success and well-being. The future of education is evolving, and California's proactive stance is a significant step toward fostering an environment where students can thrive academically and socially.

California—home to the nation's largest population of K-12 students—is the fifth state to pass a law requiring districts to adopt policies that will limit cellphones in schools, according to Education Week's tracker.

[www.edweek.org/...](http://www.edweek.org/...)

## Professionals

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