

Nicole Tremblay  
Lantzville, BC V0R2H0  
24 August 2024

School Board Trustees  
SD 68 Nanaimo Ladysmith

Dear School Board Trustees:

I am writing to address the lack of action that the district has chosen to take regarding the provincial mandate to remove cell phones from the school environment at the beginning of the new school year on September 3, 2024. Delaying the roll out of the school policy until after the instructional year has begun makes little sense.

Numerous studies have been published addressing the detrimental effects of cell phone usage on students' academic performance and social engagement with peers and staff. Even the presence of a "silenced" or turned off cell phone has been noted to detract from students' attentiveness in the classroom. Multi-tasking, common in cell phone use, has been shown to hinder learning and task execution- leading to reduced academic engagement.

Additionally, studies in multiple countries have shown that low achieving students stand to benefit the most from cell phone bans in schools. Evidence also suggests that incidences of bullying decreased in schools where cell phone use was banned.

I understand the need for due diligence when policy making decisions are under consideration; but, as a concerned parent of a teenager attending Dover Bay Secondary I strongly feel the district has dropped the ball by delaying banning cell phones from the Nanaimo Ladysmith school district prior to the opening of the new school year.

Sincerely,

Nicole Tremblay