Cell Phones in Schools: Model Policy

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Board of Education of **[insert name of school district]** has determined the use of cell phones by students during school hours should be limited.

The objective of this policy is to strengthen **[school district]**'s focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

I. Research

Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in youth.

II. Applicability

This policy applies to the use of cell phones by students while on school property during the instructional day.

III. Use of Cell Phones

Students are prohibited from using cell phones at all times.

IV. Exception

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code, a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794, or as permitted under the building's comprehensive emergency management plan adopted under section 5502.262 of the Revised Code.

A student may use a cell phone or other electronic communication device to monitor or address a health concern if the school board receives a written statement from the student's physician requiring such use.

V. Cell Phone Storage

Students shall keep their cell phones in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district, at all times.

VI. Discipline

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator shall take the following progressive disciplinary measures:

- Give the student a verbal warning and require the student to store the student's cell phone in accordance with this policy.
- Securely store the student's cell phone in a teacher- or administrator-controlled locker, bin, or drawer for the duration of the class or period.
- Place the student's cell phone in the school's central office for the remainder of the day.
- Place the student's cell phone in the school's central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.
- Schedule a conference with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the student's cell phone use.
- Other **[insert as needed]**.