



**The School District of Philadelphia
South Philadelphia High School**

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Kimlime Chek-Taylor ~ Principal

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South Philadelphia High School**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

To support a safe, focused, and academically successful learning environment, South Philadelphia High School will be implementing a **“bell-to-bell cell phone policy.”**

What does this mean?

During the School Day, students may not:

- Carry a cell phone/cellular device from bell-to-bell;
- Use a cell phone/cellular device in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, cafeterias, or other school spaces;
- Carry a second, or backup cell phone/cellular device;
- Use communication-enabled smart devices without authorization.

Why Are We Implementing This Policy?

- Increase student focus and engagement during instruction;
- Increase Social Emotional Learning (SEL) awareness with
 - Self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making;
- Improve academic performance;
- Reduce conflicts related to social media, and cell phone use;
- Strengthen school safety and climate culture, as a whole.

The South Philadelphia HS Goals with this policy are to:

- Support student achievement;
- Create distraction-free classrooms;
- Promote responsible decision-making;
- Foster a positive and respectful school culture;
- Ensure every student has the opportunity to learn and succeed;
- Continue with student-led group(s) to retrieve data and suggest changes/recommendations.

What Students Must Do Each Day:

- Turn off their cell phone before entering the building;
- Place their phone in the designated slot in the lock boxes. You will be given a 3x5 card with a number that corresponds with your cellphone slot for the day.

- Cell phones/cellular devices/smart watches will be locked away in a designated room for the day;
- Retrieve their phone/electronic device at dismissal.

If You Need to Reach Your Child:

- Contact the school's main office
- Messages will be delivered to students as quickly as possible
- Students who need to contact a parent or guardian may do so through the main office

If a Student Does Not Follow the Policy:

1st Incident

- Phone confiscated;
- Parent/guardian notified;
- Restorative conversation with staff.

2nd Incident

- Phone confiscated;
- Parent/guardian conference + cell phone/cellular device pick-up required;
- After-school detention assigned.

3rd Incident

- Progressive disciplinary consequences in accordance with school policy.

Please note:

- Students found carrying a second, hidden, or backup cell phone/cellular device will receive the same consequences;
- Refusal to follow the cell phone policy will result in an **administrative referral which may result in suspension.**

We appreciate your partnership, and support, as we work together to create the best possible learning environment for all students.

Thank you,

Joshua Torrealba

Assistant Principal, 12th Grade & Climate and Culture
South Philadelphia High School