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Tulsa's policy...

Tulsa's new policy, adopted in October, states: "We recognize the benefits of communications during emergencies; however, the use of cell phones, pagers, etc., during instruction time disrupts and interferes with the educational process and will not be tolerated. . . . Wireless devices should not be visible and are not to be activated during school hours. However, for safety reasons, students may possess wireless devices for before and/or after-school activities."

"Our 43,000 students seem to be respecting the policy as it has been outlined. I've heard no complaints and see no evidence of a problem," says Carol Caldwell, Tulsa's deputy superintendent for school improvement. She notes that exceptions may be made to the policy for medical reasons.

Kentucky...

Kentucky reversed its ban on cell phones in spring 2000 and now allows districts to develop their own policies after parents expressed concern about their children breaking the law by bring phones onto school property while attending weekend athletic events.

Students in the Jefferson County school system in Louisville, Ky., may have cell phones, but they must keep them out of sight and turned off during the school day.

let's
district
decide

"We've had no major problems" with cell phones, says Maurice Risner, Jefferson County's executive director of student relations. "We took the stance that beepers and cell phones are how families keep up with each other these days. At first, we were all kind of skeptical that phones would be ringing off the hook in classrooms, and kids would be talking in the hall, and all types of things, but that didn't happen."

Georgia

The Georgia Senate bill, sponsored by state Sen. Richard Marable, chairman of the education committee, would repeal the 1989 state ban on cell phones and pagers in schools and allow school districts to set their own policies for their use.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2/24/03

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION

DATE: 2/24/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT D

SUBMITTED BY: STUDENTS AT BECKER ELEM.