

Dear SMMUSD Families and Community Members,

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) is committed to creating safe, focused, and engaging learning environments for all students. To support this commitment, the Governing Board has adopted a revised Mobile Communications Policy (BP 5131.8) along with new administrative regulations that set clear expectations for smartphone and mobile device use across all grade levels.

These changes are designed to limit classroom distractions, protect student privacy, and ensure that mobile devices are only used when appropriate, such as during emergencies, with staff permission, or as required by a physician, an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or a Section 504 Plan. Please note that the District is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

Below is a summary of the new regulations by school level:

Elementary School: Away for the Day

At the beginning of the school day, a student shall:

- Turn off their mobile communication devices (e.g., smartphones).
- Secure and stow away their mobile communication devices and any accessories (e.g., earbuds, headphones) in a **personal carry bag or container** for the duration of the school day.

At the end of the school day, the student may:

- Retrieve their mobile communication devices and any accessories from their **personal carry bag or container**.
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Middle School: Away for the Day

John Adams (JAMS), Lincoln, and Malibu Middle School will be using **Yondr pouches** for student device storage.

Before walking on campus:

- Students must **turn off their mobile communication devices** and place them, along with any accessories (e.g., earbuds, headphones), into their **assigned Yondr pouch**.
- The pouch must be secured and remain locked for the duration of the school day.
- Students maintain possession of their pouch at all times while on campus.

At the end of the school day:

- Students unlock their pouch at a school unlocking station or by another method designated by the Principal.
 - Devices and accessories are removed, and the pouch remains with the student for year-round use.
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High School: Bell to Bell

- **Start of each class:** Students must ensure devices are on **silent mode** and place them into the teacher's designated classroom storage.
 - **During class:** Devices remain stored unless the teacher authorizes their use for instruction.
 - **End of class:** Students may retrieve their own device only after the teacher dismisses class.
 - **General expectation:** Devices remain on **silent mode while on campus**; students must follow staff directions regarding storage and use.
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We believe these clear expectations will support student well-being, improve focus during the school day, and reduce conflicts related to mobile device use. We appreciate your partnership in helping us implement these practices successfully.

For full details, you may review **Board Policy 5131.8** and the accompanying regulations on the SMMUSD website.

Thank you for your continued support of our student