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TO: School Board Members

FROM: Dr. Angela R. Fulton 
Deputy Superintendent, Teaching & Learning

Saemone Hollingsworth 
Chief Academic Officer

VIA: Howard Hepburn 
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE DATA ANALYSIS PLAN: EXAMINING THE BENEFITS AND IMPACTS OF CELL PHONE RESTRICTIONS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Please see the attached copy of the Comprehensive Data Analysis Plan examining the benefits and impacts of cell phone restrictions during school hours.

For additional information, please contact **Jodi Washington, Task Assigned Executive Director, Student Services Initiatives, via email at jodi.washington@browardschools.com or 754-321-1778.**

HH/ARF/SH/JW:mh
Attachment

Comprehensive Data Analysis Plan: Examining the Benefits and Impacts of Cell Phone Restrictions During School Hours

A comprehensive study and report will be created in partnership with a cohort of doctoral students from Florida Atlantic University.

Introduction

This proposed data analysis plan outlines potential data sources and methods for gathering the data for examining the benefits and impacts of cell phone restrictions during school hours, including during lunch and class changes. The goal is to provide a thorough understanding of the issue to aid in informed decision-making by the School Board. A comprehensive research study will be conducted by a faculty-supervised doctoral cohort of five students from Florida Atlantic University beginning in January and concluding in May. The group will provide a written report and presentation of their findings to the Superintendent and senior leaders in the District. This information will then be shared with the School Board for consideration.

Data Collection Methods

Proposed Quantitative Data Sources

- **Surveys:** Administer surveys to students, teachers, parents, and school administrators to gather data on their perspectives regarding cell phone restrictions. The surveys may include questions about perceived impacts on academic performance, concentration, social interactions, and overall well-being.
- **Academic Performance Metrics:** Collect and analyze data on students' academic performance before and after the implementation of cell phone restrictions. Metrics may include grades, test scores, attendance records, and disciplinary incidents.
- **Mental Health Data:** Gather data on students' mental health through existing school records, focusing on indicators such as anxiety, stress, and incidents of bullying or cyberbullying.
- **Bullying and Disciplinary Incidents:** Collect data on reports of bullying, fighting, large group altercations, and threats during school hours. This could include instances of cyberbullying that take place during school hours, drawn from school records and disciplinary reports.
- **Law Enforcement Input:** Engage with local law enforcement to obtain data and insights on any incidents or trends related to student behavior and safety during school hours, particularly those that might be influenced by cell phone use or restrictions.
- **Hospital Records:** Collect data on emergency room visits of adolescents for mental health reasons, including incidents of anxiety, stress, and other related mental health issues. This information may provide additional insights into the broader impacts of cell phone use and restrictions.

Proposed Qualitative Data Sources

- **Interviews:** Conduct in-depth interviews with a sample of students, teachers, parents, and school administrators to gain deeper insights into their experiences and opinions on cell phone restrictions. Questions may explore perceived benefits, challenges, and suggestions for improvement.
- **Focus Groups:** Organize focus group discussions with stakeholders, including mental health professionals, to discuss the broader impacts of cell phone use and restrictions on student well-being and academic performance.
- **Case Studies:** Examine practices and outcomes from other school districts in the United States that have implemented similar cell phone restrictions. This may include detailed reviews of policies, implementation strategies, and observed effects on students.