

## Cell Phone Controversy—Sample Resolution

*Scenario:* Should students be allowed to carry cell phones in school? Parents, teachers, kids, and administrators all weigh in on the subject to devise a school policy.

**S C A N**

Stop and think things through

*(Note: not all issues have to come from the scenario!)*

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Student</b>	<b>Parent</b>	<b>Administration</b>
Distraction	After-school	Communication	Security
Cheating	Study hall	Security	Budget time
Privacy	Instant research	Safety	Enforce

**S C A N**

Clarify the key issues

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Student</b>	<b>Parent</b>	<b>Administration</b>
Distraction-students need to pay attention in class. Cell phones ringing, etc is disruptive	After-school-we need to be able to contact our parents after school	Communication- We need to contact our children for Drs. appointments, after school, etc	Security-cell phones have been used to set off bombs, etc and should not be in schools
Cheating-students can text answers to each other, take pictures of tests and send them	Study hall-we should be able to listen to music or watch videos during study hall or lunch	Security- We need to be able to contact our children in case of emergency	Budget time-need to keep the public happy for the yes vote
Privacy-students can videotape teachers out of context and place on you-tube	Instant research-we can use our phones to research for projects	Safety: Our children need to be able to contact us in case of emergency	Enforce: how will we police the use of cell phones?

# SCAN

## Ask yourself what's most important

*Note: These are samples – answers will vary. Different points of view and groups will have different priorities. Not all issues are addressed here. In many ways, the thinking that goes into prioritizing is more important than whether an issue gets a High, Medium, or Low.*

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Importance</b>
Safety	High—all can agree that we want our kids to be safe
Cheating	Medium—cheating with cell phones is hard to police, kids are savvy Children know it is wrong
After school communication	High—large number of latchkey kids, there are lots of opportunities after school, schools are responsible door to door
Distraction	Medium—this is frustrating for teachers and other students to deal with and distraction. However, it is not a life or death matter.
Study Hall	Low—while it would be entertaining to have cell phones during study hall, it is not as important as some of our other issues

# SCAN

## Now, what's your next step?

*Answers will vary as do the issues and priorities identified.. Only two sample next actions are considered.*

### **Action #1**

Limit cell phone use during school – for example, no student cell phones in classroom – cell phones should be stored in lockers. Teachers have their cell phones in the event of an emergency during class.

### **Action #2**

Put consequences in place in case students break the policy or misuse cell phones. If policing the cell phone policy becomes too difficult, we can reassess.