

BSAC has determined that there are a number of important policies affecting BPS students about which students should be better informed. We created a series of posters, each of which describes 1-2 policies and outlines students' rights and responsibilities in connection with the policy. These posters are produced by BSAC, from students for students.

Some of the policies highlighted below are included in the *BPS Guide to Families & Students*, which students get at the beginning of the school year. Others are in a *Superintendent's Circular*, guidelines and regulations about policy implementation, which the Superintendent issues to schools and departments and can be found on the Boston Public School website [www.boston.k12.ma.us](http://www.boston.k12.ma.us).

## PUNCTUALITY POLICY

*When you're late, your time is at stake!*



## CELL PHONES

*Is yours off?*



### *2007–2008 Guide to the Boston Public Schools for Families and Students, p. 49*

As of September 2006, BPS students who arrive late to school **MUST** be admitted to the school building. **Locking out tardy students is no longer permitted in any school.**

The BPS policy on punctuality reads:

All students are **expected to report to school** on time every day. It is the policy of the Boston School Committee (approved May 24, 2006) that **tardy students should be permitted into the school building and not excluded.** Headmasters and Principals are directed to (a) review their current school tardy policies, in conjunction with School Site Councils, (b) develop reasonable, non-exclusionary practices to deal with student tardiness and positive incentives to encourage punctuality, and (c) closely monitor compliance with these policies.

Note: Excessive tardies may be counted as an unexcused absence.

SOURCE: Superintendent's Circular #T&L-18, 2006–2007, September 1, 2006

### **BSAC Says...**

The new tardiness policy is about respect for students and their education. BPS administration saw that it was wrong to punish tardy students by keeping them out of school. Schools need to continue to develop positive incentives that will make students WANT to come to school, for instance, improving school culture and emphasizing help for tardy students rather than detention or punishment. And students need to show how important education is to them—by showing up on time.

### **Your Rights**

- You have the right to enter the school building if you arrive late.

### **Your Responsibilities**

- Every school has additional **school-based rules and consequences.** After entering the school, follow your school rules.
- Get to **school on time.** Students worked hard for the new policy. We won this right. We need your help to make it work. Show you take your education seriously by showing up on time.
- Once you're inside the building, **go right to class.** Don't make yourself late—or later—by hanging out in the halls.
- You must attend school for at least a half-day to be marked "present." Check with your headmaster to find out by what time you must arrive in order to be counted present.

**Don't let it go if your rights aren't respected. Say something!**

### *2007–2008 Guide to the Boston Public Schools for Families and Students, p. 49*

The BPS cell phone policy states:

1. Students are permitted to **use cell phones *only* during the following times:**

- **before school hours** outside or inside the school building;
- **after school hours** outside or inside the school building;
- after-school or sports activities, only with the **permission** of the coach, instructor or program director;
- evening or weekend activities inside the school building.

2. The **use of cell phones** for any purpose—including telephone calls, text messaging and other functions—is **not permitted at any other time** on school grounds.

3. Cell phones **must not be visible** during the school day.

4. Cell phones **must be turned completely off** (not simply on silent or vibrate mode) during the school day.

SOURCE: Superintendent's Circular #SUP-9 2006-2007, September 1, 2006

### **BSAC Says...**

Cell phones are important to many students who need to communicate with family or after-school jobs. We need them—but we also don't want them disrupting anyone's education. The BPS cell phone policy was developed **by and for students** to strike a fair balance between respecting our learning environment and respecting students' rights.

### **Your Rights**

- You are permitted to have your cell phone with you in school.
- You are permitted to use your cell phone on school grounds **ONLY before and after school hours.**

### **Your Responsibilities**

- Every school has additional **school-based rules and consequences.** After entering the school, follow your school rules.
- **Respect the cell phone policy.** We worked hard for the right to carry cell phones in school. Let's be a team and show that we can all use them responsibly.
- **Keep your phone turned off** and out of sight during school hours.
- At times when you are permitted to use your phone (before and after school), be respectful of those around you. Limit yourself to necessary calls, and make them short.
- Turn your phone off during practice, sports events, meetings, performances, and other organized activities.
- Share any concerns you have about the cell phone policy and its enforcement.

# TAKE ACTION

If this isn't happening in your school here is what you can do.

Take the following steps in order. Move on to the next step **ONLY** if your actions do not solve the problem. If you are not comfortable talking to the person indicated, talk to someone you trust (e.g., another teacher, administrator, or family member).

For more information on problem solving, see the *Guide to the Boston Public Schools for Families and Students, page 9.*

**Remember...the first action you take may not solve the problem. Keep trying!**

#### **If you are locked out...**

1. Contact your school's headmaster.
2. Have your parent or guardian contact the headmaster.
3. Contact and/or have your parent or guardian contact your school's Triad Operational Leader.
4. Contact and/or have your parent or guardian contact the Superintendent's Ombudsperson at 617-635-6995.

#### **If your school does not respect the cell phone policy...**

...e.g., you are prevented from making a call during permitted times...

1. Talk to the teacher or staff person involved.
2. Have your parent or guardian contact the teacher or staff person.
3. Contact and/or have your parent or guardian contact your school's headmaster.
4. Contact and/or have your parent or guardian contact your school's Triad Operational Leader.
5. Contact and/or have your parent or guardian contact the Superintendent's Office at 617-635-9050.

**Finally, e-mail BSAC at [BSAC@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:BSAC@boston.k12.ma.us) notifying us of the incident and the steps you took in response. We will add your name to a list that we will present to the School Committee, the Superintendent's Office, or other appropriate parties.**