



June 18, 2024

The Honorable Josh Newman
Chair, Senate Education Committee
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 3216 (Hoover): OPPOSE
Senate Education Committee
Hearing Date: June 26, 2024

Dear Senator Newman:

On behalf of the California School Boards Association (CSBA), which represents nearly 1,000 school district and county boards of education statewide, we must respectfully oppose AB 3216 (Hoover) regarding smart phones in schools which is scheduled to be heard before the Senate Education Committee on June 26, 2024.

Current law authorizes the governing body of a local education agency (LEA) to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones while the pupils are at a schoolsite or while the pupils are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of that school district, COE, or charter school.

AB 3216 would instead mandate that a LEA adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the student use of smartphones by July 1, 2026, and update it every five years. The bill provides that the goal of the policy shall be to promote evidence-based use of smartphone practices to support pupil learning and well-being.

Governing boards already have the authority to limit smartphone use in schools. Further, governing boards can also regulate the possession or use of smartphones. Many LEAs have already adopted policies in accordance with current law that restrict or prohibit students' use of smartphones.

CSBA opposes this measure as districts already have the ability to address smartphones. This bill limits the decision-making authority of the governing board as they would now have to adopt a policy, even if, through local community meetings, it was found that there was no need to limit/prohibit the usage. These decisions are best made at the local level by people who understand, reside, are invested in, and accountable to the communities they serve. This legislation goes against the precepts of local control by taking the decision-making process out of the hands of the duly elected local governing board and requiring them to adopt a policy.

For this reason, we must respectfully oppose AB 3216 (Hoover) and ask for your **"NO"** vote when it comes before you in the Senate Education Committee on June 26, 2024. Please contact me at ehoffman@csba.org or by phone at 916/371-4691 if you have any questions regarding our position.

Sincerely,

Erika K. Hoffman
Deputy Legislative Director, State and Federal Programs
California School Boards Association

cc: Members, Senate Education Committee
Assembly Member Josh Hoover