

CDEC 26 RESOLUTION ON CELL PHONE BAN

Pursuant to New York State Education Law Section 2590-e subsection 14, Community District Education Council 26 holds public meetings every month during which the public may speak so that parents and the community have a voice and public forum to air their concerns. Pursuant to New York State Education Law Section 2590-e subsection 18, Community District Education Council 26 is empowered to provide input, as it deems necessary, to the Chancellor and the City Board on matter of concern to the district. Under this authority, Community District Education Council 26 sets forth the following:

Whereas, the safety of all children is a civil right;

Whereas, the safety of children living in District 26 and attending District 26 and other public schools is an important concern and priority of all members of the District 26 community;

Whereas, it is necessary to provide safety to children while they travel to and from school;

Whereas, providing safety to the community's children requires effective communication;

Whereas, cellular telephones have been used to promote such effective communication and their use has led to increased safety for the community's children;

Whereas, the Department of Education has banned the possession of cellular telephones at New York City Schools;

Whereas, Department of Education officials have confiscated cellular telephones from students that were not being used or displayed;

Whereas, this policy was instituted without any meaningful involvement by parents and others who will suffer diminished security for their children;

Whereas, this policy has been opposed by members of the District 26 Education community;

Whereas, this policy has resulted in children not having access to a reliable communication device that provides speedy and ready contact with parents, guardians and other safety providers.

Be it resolved;

We, the members of the Community District Education Council 26 declare the ban on cell phones to be against the best interests of the children and students of District 26, and do appeal to the Chancellor to repeal this ban and replace it with a policy that allows students to possess cell phones in schools and prohibits their use or display on any school property.

DATED: JUNE 29, 2006