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Dear Members of the School Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District,

We congratulate the district for addressing the twin issues of screen time addiction and classroom distraction by adopting policies that strictly limit or prohibit the use of cell phones in school. These policies will certainly benefit everyone in schools, including students, teachers and staff.

It is important that as part of the policy prohibiting cell phones in schools, students are required to turn their phones **off** and deposit them in a receptacle that blocks any radiofrequency (RF) radiation emissions. For instance, individual EMF-blocking cell phone pouches could be easily stored in classrooms but still be within easy reach of students in an emergency.

The banning of cell phone use in schools brings with it the opportunity to re-evaluate the amount of RF radiation present in schools. As you are aware, RF radiation negatively impacts a growing cohort of children and adults who are particularly sensitive to its effects, with symptoms that include headaches, fatigue, inability to concentrate, depression, anxiety and cardiac arrhythmia.

Cell phones account for a large percentage of the RF radiation in schools, but laptops, tablets, routers, smart boards, smart speakers and other wireless devices also contribute significant amounts. Recent efforts by some schools to reduce RF radiation levels have proven that typical classroom router or access point levels can be lowered by more than 90% by reducing factory-set power levels, with no impact on performance and no cost. In some cases, performance was improved.

As the Federal Communications Commission continues to consider the court-ordered re-evaluation of its human exposure standards,¹ particularly as they apply to children, we strongly suggest that the district take a pro-active approach to reducing RF radiation exposure. **This should include comprehensive, real-time measurements of cumulative RF exposure levels in classrooms with all devices operating simultaneously.** There is no downside to taking such precautions, and for those who are sensitive, reducing

¹ The Federal Appeals Court in Washington DC called the FCC's decision not to update its 1996 exposure guidelines "arbitrary and capricious." See Environmental Health Trust v. FCC, 2019
<https://www.fcc.gov/document/dc-circuit-decision-environmental-health-trust-v-fcc>

radiation levels could dramatically improve their health, well-being and scholastic performance.

The award-winning, science based non-profit organization Grassroots Environmental Education has created a dedicated program, **www.TechSafeSchools.org**, to help parents, teachers, administrators, and IT personnel understand more about how RF radiation may be affecting some students and teachers, and easy steps that can be taken to reduce exposures.

Thank you for your efforts to protect everyone working or learning in LAUSD schools. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues in greater detail. In the meantime, we are including several links to more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B Martinez', written over a horizontal line.

Brenda Martinez
Project Coordinator

Links to additional information

Scientific studies on RF radiation and human health:

<https://www.grassrootsinfo.org/wireless-digest>

Information about how to reduce router power levels:

<https://www.techsafeschools.org/mitigation>

Information about pregnancy and RF radiation

<https://www.babysafeproject.org/>

Safer Tech Schools Training Course

<https://www.safertecheducation.org/courses/safer-tech-education/>

Be TechSafe in the Classroom (poster)

https://www.techsafeschools.org/_files/ugd/2cea04_406f9dc1a4004290a1cce65daf8b8c60.pdf