

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 December 2023 12:09 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford  
**Subject:** ESC732 | Education policy platform

[REDACTED]

Hi Erica

Go hard pls – uneducated kids are a ticking timebomb – primarily for themselves, their families, our social problem/s and our Country.

Cell phone ban, about time

Strict curriculum as you are going to embed.

BUT

A key is the teachers themselves – who is going to “Observe” them doing what is required ? I firmly believe that Principals / Snr staff such as Deans should be mandated to dedicate a min number of hours pw doing “Observational Coaching” of teachers teaching... say 5 hours with 90 Day Action Planning to grow their skills.

Also ID the Top Teachers, consider them as Mentors for others – it will be difficult but something major has to happen asap

If we are going to get cut through. We need to challenge the norm .

All the best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 January 2024 1:18 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford (MIN)  
**Subject:** RE: Education for right whingers  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Erica Stanford  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 December 2023 5:12 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** ESC0303 FW: Education for right whingers

ESC0303

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Christopher Luxon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 December 2023 3:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Erica Stanford <[erica.stanford@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:erica.stanford@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Education for right whingers

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out to Christopher Luxon. He appreciates people taking the time to share their feedback, concerns and ideas.

As Leader of the National Party, Christopher relies on his colleagues to respond on his behalf to specific matters relating to their portfolios. As such I have forwarded your correspondence to the Minister of Education, Hon Erica Stanford and her team, for their consideration.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write; it is very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Correspondence Unit  
National Leader's Office  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand [national.org.nz](http://national.org.nz)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 2 December 2023 7:52 AM  
To: Christopher Luxon <Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz>  
Subject: Education for right whingers

Kia Ora Primeminister Luxon,

I read in the news recently that the coalition of backwards wants to make all primary school tamariki do 1 hour of maths, english etc a day in school... So my question about this policy is; Can you please explain to me how this will help little [REDACTED] with attention issues?

How I see it from experience and also what all the experts in education are saying (but the coalitions knows better) is they will struggle because they are bored with all this basic boaring learning they have to do. I have experiranced this first hand with my own learning and also with my sons learning, as soon as it gets boring, you switch off and become disruptive in class. Its child behaviour 101.

So will you abandon this policy and actually listen to experts in education?

Also I am very confused by the blanket ban on cell phones at school, I find it outrageous that schools can't have their own policy and need the government wasting time and loads of money on making laws in a cost of living crisis that they don't need to. Not to mention the hypocrisy of banning phones but when it comes to outlawing cigarettes your back peddling... last I checked, Phones don't kill people - Cigarettes do!

Ngā Mihi

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 January 2024 10:01 AM  
**To:** Erica Stanford (MIN)  
**Subject:** ESC748 | Cell phone ban regulation

[REDACTED]

Kia ora, Minister

I sent an email to you earlier today and I am just following up with a couple of other salient points.

1. According to MOE advice, 81 schools have decided the use of cell phones was such an issue that they have implemented their own regulations. This makes up approximately 3% of the 2500 schools in NZ. Of note, is that 52 of the 81 schools are located in the south of NZ - obviously more a geographical concern than a national one.
2. Of the 81 schools, I would be interested to know what the school rolls are for these schools so we could find out the % of students actually already under cell phone school regulation. I would say that this would be less than 3% of the school student population.
3. In NZ schools, school boards are able to enact local bylaws for their own communities - but we now have a National led government who has decided that they know better and are now imposing cell phone regulations on the other 97% of schools who do NOT consider cell phone use a major issue.

Rather ironic really!!

[Mā te wā,](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2024 7:36 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford EA  
**Subject:** ESC2033 | Phone ban

I hope that you're happy that this phone ban is making everyone's life more difficult. I hope you and your dumb government understand that this will only make students want their phones more and stress out teachers who are already underpaid. Like, come on??? Was this the most important thing to you? Perhaps you should concentrate on the starving children living in poverty rather than the teenagers using their phones. Like, why were high school students included in this ban? I understand why they are not permitted in classes, but why at lunch times????? Most schools already ban them in the classroom, like for fucksakes, you're taking the piss.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 February 2024 12:11 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Erica Stanford; Penny Simmonds; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Erica Stanford EA  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Absolutely agree [REDACTED]; phone ban is awesome! 😊

Kind regards  
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2024 12:03:59 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Erica Stanford  
<erica.stanford@parliament.govt.nz>; Penny Simmonds <Penny.Simmonds@parliament.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] EricaStanford.EA@parliament.govt.nz  
<EricaStanford.EA@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Kia ora,

Rather than waste precious meeting time I'll give some feedback on the phone ban here. Our school is a co-ed secondary school in Whangarei. We were able to implement the total phone ban from Term 1 because we already had a no phones in class policy so extending it was easy. In the first week when we only had Years 12 and 13 at school, 20 phones and headphones were confiscated, mainly during the interval breaks. The taura (students) know there is no wriggle room. When we confiscate the earphones or phones, they are lodged with the office and parents/caregivers are contacted and told they can pick them up after the end of school. Some taura still haven't yet got the message.

Something that's really noticeable is the increased level of social engagement of the taura at the interval breaks. My duty is on the field and it's quite noticeable that the taura are engaging and playing more. Impromptu footy games are being played, a group of taura were twirling around and just playing, and other activities. It is just fabulous to see.

The phone ban coming from the government has taken away any wriggle room which makes my job as a garden variety teacher much easier.

Nga mihi,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 February 2024 3:22 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford  
**Subject:** ESC1458 | Cell Phone Ban

Kia ora Erica,

My daughters school has just informed me that to comply with the cellphone ban, we need to purchase a calculator for my daughter to use rather than a cell phone.

Unless either yourself or the PM is happy to be invoiced for the calculator, my daughter will have to continue using her cell phone during maths as the purchase of a calculator is not in our budget this year.

My daughter also uses an authenticator app on her phone to answer an MFA (Multi Factor Authentication) challenge when she logs into cloud based resources to complete school work. We can amend this to a hardware token, but again unless you or the PM are willing to be invoiced for that, then she will have to continue using her phone when accessing these resources.

If you require my daughter to comply with your cell phone ban, then please send through those details of either yourself or the PM for those invoices.

Ngaa Mihi  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 February 2024 1:48 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford  
**Subject:** ESC1619 | School phone ban and neurodiversity

Hello Erica,

I am writing to give you some feedback/further insights in relation to the school phone ban. Firstly, **I am fully in favour of phones off and away in class** but there are many difficulties here that need clarity. A few points below:

1. Neurodiverse children – there are legitimate reasons for a neurodiverse child to have access to their phone during the day [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
2. This is not unique to our situation, there is quite a bit of upset from parents with neurodiverse children coming through on some of the Facebook support forums, including kids that now CAN'T attend school because of this policy.
3. I recently pitched and organised the parents that spoke up about their neurodiverse children' struggles in the article below:  
  
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/509326/it-feels-like-a-blanket-thing-for-all-children-neurodiverse-kids-struggle-with-phone-ban>
4. I understand there is meant to be an exemption for special circumstances, but no one knows what the policy is and how to apply. Anecdotally some schools are saying no exemptions under any circumstances.
5. And then there is the issue of how the other children will react seeing someone with a phone, drawing attention to them being ND. Further, how can every teacher in a school know which students can and can't have their phones?
6. Further, as stated on the Ministry of Education website section regarding the phone ban, I understand that under section 16 of the Education and Training Act 2020 schools are required to consult with their communities around any major rule changes. I challenge any school that implemented this on day one of the 2024 school year to show their proof of consultation. I doubt very many did, if any based on what I have heard. This links up with the exemption policy and how to apply – schools that didn't consult may not even be aware of the implications for neurodiverse children. I have heard from some parents that their school has said it is a full ban, absolutely no exceptions.
7. My daughter's school, [REDACTED] has not implemented the ban yet and yesterday a survey was sent to students canvassing their opinions on suitable "punishments" for phone use. I was encouraged to see this, and hope parents are soon engaged in the consultation as well.
8. Vaping is an epidemic in schools. My daughter will not go to the main toilet block at any of the time during the day as it is constantly filled with students vaping. Schools just don't have the resources to police every bathroom every day. Where will the resources come from to police the phones as well? While a large number of kids do vape, a larger number have phones and I suspect they will end up in the toilets still vaping while using their phones!

Like I said, I am supportive of phones away during class, but the new policy is unclear and unfair to the needs of many neurodiverse students, and it seems every school is implementing it differently.

Please remember that every ND kid is different, and their needs are not one size fits all.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 February 2024 5:56 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford (MIN)  
**Subject:** ESC1635 | Phone Ban in Secondary Schools

Dear Ms Stanford,

First of all, may I take the time to congratulate you on being selected as the Minister of Education. I myself hope to one day be a politician and Education is my second-favourite ministry after Foreign Affairs. I understand that is probably one of the hardest ministries since your policies impact not only this generation but the next generation of New Zealand workers. Education shapes minds and helps make people the way you are. So I understand that your job might no doubt be stressful for you at times and I applaud you on your diligence and effort.

However, there is a concern that I wish to raise with you. The Phone Ban, which is probably the most controversial education-related legislation that National is suggesting. And so it saddens me that the opposition doesn't bring it up as much as they bring up issues such as repealing Smokefree and the like. And so I decided to directly take it up with you. You see, I have conversed and discussed this issue with my classmates and the majority of them are vocally against it. And it's not as if they're juveniles or miscreants, for the most part they are well-behaved, respectful, and are focused in the classroom. And they understand that they should be concentrated in class. They simply wish to be able to use their phones in their own break times when it's not interrupting their learning. They feel that when they're not in class, then it's not as if their phones will distract them from anything. And to be honest I agree with them. And that is why I've started a petition against it.

But I doubt that petitioning alone will be effective. So that is why I have decided to contact you to pitch an idea to you. I suggest that a variety of students from a variety of secondary schools from a variety of regions throughout New Zealand with a variety of views, opinions, and ideas amongst them are nominated by their peers to come to parliament to express their own perspective around the phone ban and make suggestions. I find education to be one of the most interesting political topics for a reason: The people who it impacts the most can't vote on it. I understand that perhaps you wouldn't want to lower the voting age but considering the gravity of this topic I would think that there should be some involvement in the process from politically minded teens like myself who can come to parliament and represent the will of the people. Not only would it serve as a reassurance to us minors that our voices were being heard, we might serve as an encouragement to our international friends who might follow our lead.

Please, at least consider this. I understand you have your views but you should at least give us a chance to present our own case.

Kindest Regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 March 2024 1:18 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford (MIN)  
**Subject:** ESC1646 | NZ school phone ban

Dear Minister,

I am emailing to talk to you about the phone ban that will be implemented on Monday from 8:30am to 3:15pm. I believe that should mean that you and your officials should be joining us and all having your phones off and away between those hours.

Will you act as a good role model to make this fair and join us?

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 March 2024 1:38 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford (MIN)  
**Subject:** Mobile Phone Ban Rule

Dear Minister,

I understand that the mobile phone rule has been put in place to help college students focus on our work. But why are you and your fellow MPs not following the same rule, because if I'm being honest your work is just as important as ours.

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 March 2024 9:38 AM  
**To:** Erica Stanford (MIN)  
**Subject:** ESC1743 | Canterbury Principals meeting

Kia ora

I was at the Canterbury WC principals meeting on Friday 23 Feb and just wanted to say how much I appreciated how forthright and open you were in explaining what you see for education and where issues are. I'd like to wish you well in the role and I'm sure it will be an interesting and busy time.

You asked for feedback on some areas and so I'll give you my 2c worth but be aware it's probably only worth that as I am a brand new principal (5 weeks in!) so I may not have the depth of understanding around things as others would!

- it was raised at the CWC meeting about counselling in schools and as a rural isolated school this is a major topic for us. In Kaikoura there are no mental health services for youth so our young people often get no assistance if we do not have a counsellor. However having the counsellor tied into staffing puts us as a small school in a Claytons choice position - we either staff courses in order to give the variety in education and choice of study any other larger school would or have a counsellor. Whatever we decide has a major impact - no counsellor then mental health decreases, no courses then role decreases as those who can will leave town to seek choice elsewhere. If there is any way of looking to have counselling provision outside of staffing or an additional tagged position rather than being in general staffing that would be amazing - it's an every year battle for us and as we all know youth mental health is becoming more of an issue all the time.

- love the phone ban, best thing ever! But also having it as a national 'rule' has been invaluable, we have had no parental pushback or the like it made it so much easier to have it accepted and I 100% agree with it as a plan.

- I was very encouraged to hear your thoughts on keeping a dual literacy/numeracy pathway. While I agree we must have a standard for Lit/num for students it is also vital we accept that not all young people can perform to their best in a one off exam style test - and they will still be literate and numerate. In the past having some alternative pathways was vital for students that needed another way of achieving to still show their capabilities. I also feel that for boys especially a one off exam if they fail the first time then creates an attitude that often will change their pathway as they become disengaged with achieving that exam. It would be great to see an alternate path=way persist - in its current form is great as it is more limited than what we had which is good as it allows robustness in the system rather than many ways that are less rigorous.

- Yes to a structured literacy program - exactly as you said, if they come to High School well below they basically have no chance to catch up so having all schools contributing the same will make a massive difference in time! I'm loving your evidence based approach (especially as a science teacher!) and would support Kahui Ako going as it has had some value in our area but I feel the money could be much better spent in areas such as tagged teacher aides to schools or further learning support!

Whew bit long winded but thank you so much and all the best!

Nga mihi nui

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 March 2024 9:16 AM  
**To:** Erica Stanford (MIN)  
**Subject:** Re: ESC926 | Article on Cellphone Ban in Schools

Kia ora Office of Erica Stanford,

Thank you for your reply.

Most importantly, I hope you are having a wonderful week! Hopefully life in the parliament complex isn't too stressful.

Stay cool and keep smiling 😊

On Wed, 13 Mar 2024 at 9:06 AM, Erica Stanford (MIN) <[E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

Please see attached letter from Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education.

Office of Hon Erica Stanford



Office of Hon Erica Stanford

MP for East Coast Bays

Minister of Education

Minister of Immigration

Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 8:44 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford <[erica.stanford@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:erica.stanford@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** ESC926 | Article on Cellphone Ban in Schools

Kia ora Erica ('s office),

I came across this article, "The Case for Phone-Free Schools" on Substack by the American psychologist, Jonathan Haidt. It is a worthwhile read if the Government is serious about banning phones in schools. It also cites some very useful studies that the Minister may want to arm herself with for question time.

Article - <https://www.afterbabel.com/p/phone-free-schools>

I don't doubt that your office is incredibly busy after the holidays so no need to reply to this email. I just thought a bit of science-informed policy might be prudent.

Anyway, most importantly I hope everyone in the office had a great holiday, and welcome back to work!

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 March 2024 10:54 AM  
**To:** Erica Stanford (MIN)  
**Subject:** Re: ESC959 | Cell Phones in Schools  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Thank you Minister for your reply, it is appreciated as I do understand you are very busy. I do understand the distraction mobile Phones can cause and applaud the need for the compulsory extra lessons on base subjects years 1 to 6 in particular. Your email has explained the manner the mobile phone/device issue can be handled by schools and that has provided an answer to my concerns for many secondary school students. Thank you again for your time taken in responding.  
Kind regards  
[REDACTED]

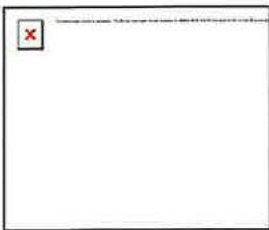
On Wed, 13 Mar 2024, 08:49 Erica Stanford (MIN), <[E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

Please see attached letter from Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education.

Office of Hon Erica Stanford



**Office of Hon Erica Stanford**

MP for East Coast Bays

Minister of Education

Minister of Immigration

Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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**From** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:24 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford (MIN) <[E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** ESC959 | Cell Phones in Schools

Hello Minister

Please advise if Cell Phone use will be permitted in Secondary Schools in particular.

For these students their cell phones are vital for data collection and programmes, planning, assignments, information gathering for NCEA etc etc.

Banning cell phones for Years 9 to 13 would be a ridiculous move that simply would be another move in reducing achievement rates and increasing Exam failures.

It would be another policy action of micro managing professionals that will be extremely detrimental to students.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 March 2024 7:51 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford  
**Subject:** ESC1947 | Classroom teaching

Dear Ms Stanford

I'm a secondary school teacher with thirty plus years teaching experience and I'm writing this because I have a sense you're going to be a very good Minister of Education and hence it may be worth sharing a couple of ideas with you. You're tremendously busy, no doubt, and it may well be that this never finds its way to you, but I'll try nevertheless. For what it's worth your colleagues Nicola Willis and Chris Bishop will at least be able to attest I'm not a crank; I taught Nicola's husband Duncan and we attended one another's weddings, and I first met Chris back in his high school debating days - so there's a filter available to you there.

First, thank you for the phone ban in schools. It's a cracker initiative and is working brilliantly. There's something about having a nationwide edict that's made it so much easier for us to shift the culture in schools. For example, an effect I hadn't foreseen is the way kids are less anxious about missing phone messages because they know none of their mates are able to send any, including friends in other schools. It's a simple change that is already having a profound impact upon focus and engagement in the room. Well done.

Second, I'm our school Specialist Classroom Teacher here at [REDACTED] and part of that role involves looking after our first and second year teachers. We actively recruit new teachers (this year we have eleven staff in their first year of teaching) so I see up close the kind of skills they emerge from teaching training with and, more saliently, those they lack. You've expressed misgivings about teacher training and you're right to. The thing that is stark for me is the at times complete lack of guidance regarding the nuts and bolts of delivering lessons in the room. There's a great deal taught that is aspirational in terms of what education should achieve (akin perhaps to apprentice mechanics devoting most of their training time to rote learning their company's mission statement) but in terms of planning lessons, assessing work, behaviour management, motivating students, modes and styles of feedback etc, there's a genuine lack. I think this is largely because the people doing the teaching haven't themselves spent significant recent time working in schools. There are other ideological and institutional reasons, clearly, but for me this is the big one. I'd love there to be far more use made of one or two year (no longer) secondments of top practitioners into teacher training roles. I suspect they'd make a huge difference.

Lastly, I've served as a union rep in schools on and off for decades and while I'm sure you're aware of this, I'm always struck by the period post-2002 that lasted maybe fifteen years where pay rounds were settled very peacefully with minimal disruption to students. It was easier in a low inflationary environment, of course, but there was more to it than that. A lot of work was done behind the scenes to connect key personalities, and bypass the cult of personality that can sometimes emerge in union (and ministry) leadership. Last year's dispute was kind of ludicrous, a great deal of unnecessary posturing when we all kind of knew it would end exactly as it did, with a solution somewhere in the middle. Compromising the school programme so hard on the heels of covid was unconscionable and there's another round due to start next year. Part of this is in the union's court, we need to do better, but I have a suspicion that there is a way of returning to negotiations that are by their very nature less combative.

Here's not the place for extended explanations, but these are two areas where I think significant gains can be made relatively easily (solving school builds - that's going to be trickier!)

So enough for now. Good luck in all your endeavours. I may have misread you, but have formed the opinion you'll be resistant to institutional capture and open to pragmatic solutions. I imagine you have easy access to school leaders, but if ever you should want to talk through these or other issues with a classroom teacher, I'd love to be of some help. I have my own political prejudices, as we all have, but when it comes to education I'm interested in things that work. The rest is just blather.

Go well and thank you for giving your life to this stuff.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 7 April 2024 10:13 AM  
**To:** Erica Stanford  
**Subject:** ESC2166 | Cell phone ban exemptions.

Hi there,

The National Party school cell phone ban has been implemented in a rather rushed manner without forethought and sufficient planning, leaving many children, parents, and schools unsure of how to proceed.

As a result, I need some urgent information please.

I require my child to have a cell phone for health and safety reasons. My child needs to be able to use the text service for child mental health in case of crisis. Her condition is complex and she needs an exemption to function safely.

I have spoken to the school and the school has indicated that they have not received any information on how to arrange an exemption and have heard nothing on how these would work.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

[REDACTED]

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**From:**

**Sent:**

[REDACTED]  
Friday, 12 April 2024 1:00 PM

**To:**

**Cc:**

[REDACTED] Erica Stanford; Penny Simmonds; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:**

Kia ora

Totally fine with me. Thank you.

I'm linking in an article released this week about Northland Schools and the phone ban. [Link](#). It features [REDACTED] who is the principal of the school I teach at - [REDACTED]. She is quite exceptional. We absolutely love the phone ban. I'm looking at writing a paper around vaping. That's another huge issue facing schools.

Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 April 2024 9:43 AM  
**To:** Erica Stanford (MIN)  
**Subject:** Good move on cell phones in schools

Dear Minister

I am reading Jonathan Haidt's recent book about the damage done to Gen Zers due to mobile phone/social media use. The evidence supports your ban on mobile phones in schools and I thank you for it.

What else can we do here? I wonder what policies universities should adopt.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**Subject:**

Media - Family First <media@familyfirst.org.nz>  
Friday, 3 May 2024 8:49 AM  
MEDIA RELEASE - Public Support for Phone Ban In Schools



## MEDIA RELEASE

3 April 2024

### Public Support for Phone Ban In Schools

Family First says that the new phone ban in schools has widespread support from parents and the general public.

A [survey](#) done by Curia Market Research before the General Election last year found that 67% of respondents support a cellphone ban for students in schools, and 30% opposed.

For parents with children, support was at 61%. Based on political party support, all voters except Green Party voters had strong support for the ban. Males were more in favour of the ban than females.

Respondents were also asked in the same poll whether they thought the standard of education in New Zealand is declining, improving or remaining about the same. 63% of respondents think the standard of education in NZ is declining. 22% said it was the same, and only 7% said it was improving. Concerns about standards dropping were shared across voters from all political parties.

The nationwide poll was carried out 22/23 August 2023 and has a margin of error of +/- 3.1%.

[VIEW THE FULL POLL RESULTS](#)

ENDS

**Contact:**

**Bob McCoskrie - CEO**

**Mob.** [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

---

**From:**

**Sent:**

[REDACTED]  
Friday, 3 May 2024 2:42 PM

**To:**

Erica Stanford (MIN)

**Subject:**

Mobile phones in school

I would like to congratulate you on the sensible decision to ban phones in schools. It seemed such an obvious decision to take but it needed someone in power to have the gumption to do it. I only wish the selling of vapes could be restricted to pharmacies. In talking to parents of school children , vaping and an unhealthy addiction to screens are the problems they are most concerned about. I wish you well in your desire to improve educational standards in our schools.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:**

**Sent:**

[REDACTED]  
Saturday, 4 May 2024 4:41 PM

**To:**

Erica Stanford

**Subject:**

Mobile phone ban

Hi Erica

I'm a parent, grandparent and teacher. Thank you for instigating the mobile phone ban in schools. To know that students are now talking more to each other and using their school library more is fantastic news. Let's hope there is a correlation with improved academic results and the ban.

Cheers

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:**

**Sent:**

[REDACTED]  
Tuesday, 7 May 2024 1:24 PM

**To:**

Erica Stanford

**Subject:**

ESC2632 | A great idea for education in NZ, that everyone will learn to really love

Tena koe Minister Stanford

Nice to see the largely positive responses to the phone ban in schools - who'd have thought? - not me, LoL. My suggestion is that NZ creates and enforces a standard nation-wide uniform, for all state funded schools. I am not suggesting schools that don't have uniforms, must now have them, merely that if they do, the uniform should be prescribed by central government.

At first glance it may look like a ridiculous suggestion, but just consider the economic benefits.

The economies of scale will drastically reduce the price of new uniforms.

A huge national market, on which parents could easily buy and sell second hand uniforms will quickly develop.

It is absolutely certain to substantially lower the costs to struggling families.

It is proven to work - I heard about this from a friend who lived in Japan - they do it there.

The only pushback will be from the really wealthy schools - maybe some could buy out of the scheme to subsidise the poorer schools?

I hope you will seriously consider this proposal. School uniforms are a serious expense for parents, simply because they are in a very uncompetitive market - being specific per school and per area the volume traded is miniscule.

Why all schools have not already done this voluntarily by networking is beyond me.

Times have changed- let's innovate.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 May 2024 11:28 AM  
**To:** Erica Stanford; ecboffice@parliament.govt.nz  
**Subject:** positive feedback from a NZ teacher

Kia Ora Erica and team,

My name is [REDACTED] I am 40 years old and live in [REDACTED] I have one child who is year three at our local primary school.

I have been a classroom teacher for 12 years, I left teaching in mid [REDACTED] because I was tired, bored and burnt out. I now work as an aquatics educator, providing PLD on water safety and aquatics to teachers and schools so I still have a good idea of whats going on in schools even though I am no longer in the classroom.

I just wanted to email you and your team to say that I could not be happier with everything you, your team and the coalition government are doing to change up our education system. From the cellphone ban to structured literacy, attendance, a focus on a clear, concise curriculum, less focus on student centric learning, charter schools, more reading/writing/maths time. It's all so positive and long term will make the changes our education system has needed for a very long time.

I'm sure you and your team find it hard at times with the negativity, but from one teacher who's been "at the coalface" for a long time, please stay the course! You are all doing such great work, for the first time in my life I am so proud of my Government for having the courage to make these difficult but so obviously needed changes and I wanted to let you know.

Kind Regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Erica Stanford  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 May 2024 12:59 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: National Party Education policies

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:26 AM  
**To:** Erica Stanford EA <EricaStanford.EA@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: National Party Education policies

Hello again [REDACTED]

Please pass on my congratulations to Erica, as I believe she is doing an incredible job in her role as Education Minister.

I welcome the phone ban and the pause on NCEA Levels 2 and 3 implementation.

I have a request for further support from the Minister regarding NCEA Level 1; could she clarify what is expected of us in terms of assessing students at NCEA Level 1 from 2025 until the new curriculum changes are ready?

Are we to expect the ill-prepared NCEA level 1 standards to exist until another review and (further) new standards are implemented?

Or should we expect the new standards to 'evolve' as the Ministry & NZQA work out what they want?

Could a rollback to expired standards of 2023 (and previous) be considered? I ask this because even though they were inadequate, most staff were fluent in their implementation, giving students more confidence in their teacher's understanding of what is expected performance at this level.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my questions. I look forward to hearing from you and/or Erica.

Best regards,

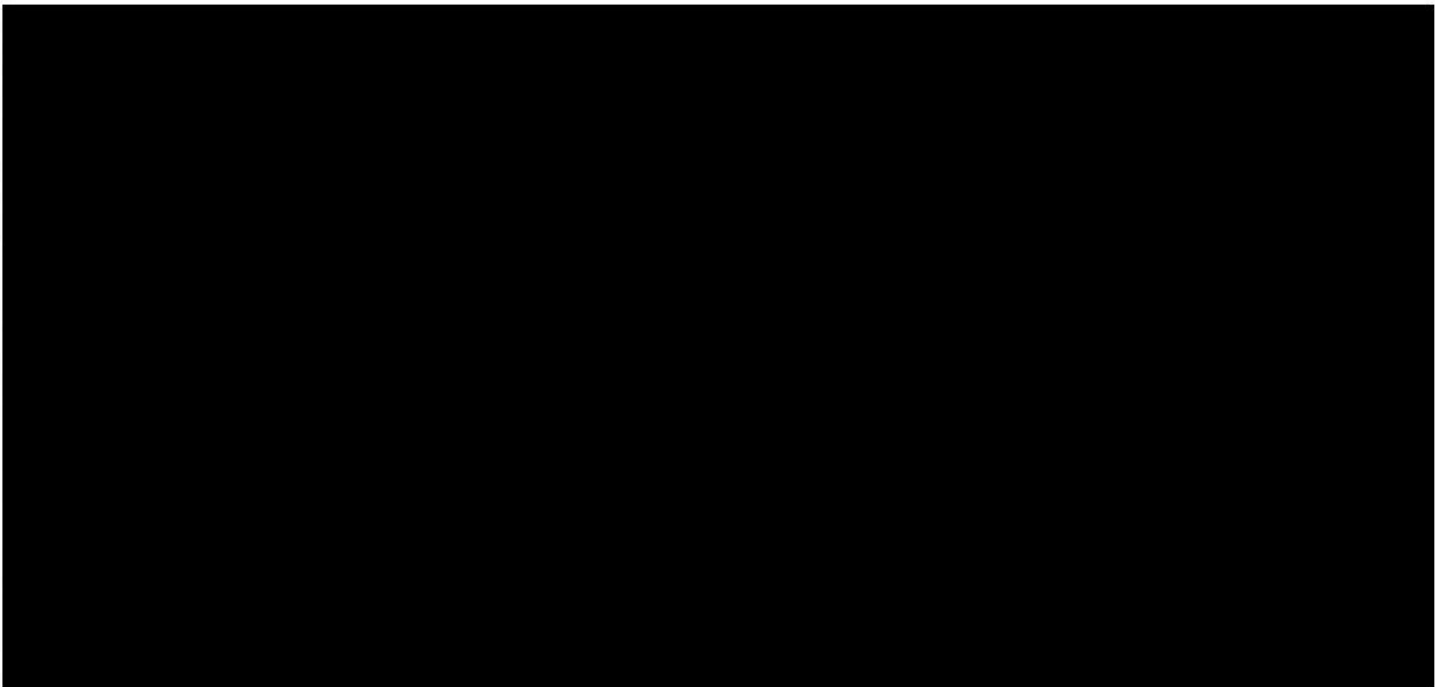
[REDACTED]  
HoD Mathematics,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 July 2023 8:40 PM  
**To:** Erica Stanford EA <[EricaStanford.EA@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:EricaStanford.EA@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: National Party Education policies



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Christopher Luxon  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 May 2024 1:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Erica Stanford (MIN)  
**Subject:** ESC2811 | RE: My opinion on your phone ban

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out to the Rt Hon Christopher Luxon. He appreciates people taking the time to share their feedback, concerns and ideas.

Your suggestions have been noted and forwarded onto the Prime Minister, as well as the office of the Minister for Education, Hon Erica Stanford, for their consideration.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write; it is very much appreciated.

Ngā mihi nui



[REDACTED]  
**Correspondence Lead Advisor | Office of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon**  
Prime Minister  
Minister for National Security and Intelligence  
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 1:26 PM  
**To:** Christopher Luxon <Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** My opinion on your phone ban

Dear Mr Luxon,

I get why we shouldn't have phones in class. It's really distracting while we are learning and doesn't benefit our education. What I don't get though is why we can't have our phones during break times or other times the teachers allow us to for special purposes (eg. taking photos/videos for presentations and notes). There is nothing to be distracted by at breaks so I don't get why you took them away for the whole day.

Here are some ways you could have solved some of the problems happening at school without taking away our phones completely. Firstly, to prevent distractions in class from our phones, because that is a big problem I guess, the teachers could put everyone's phone in a basket and keep it at their desk.

Another reason that the phone ban in schools was implemented was because of our academic/educational results getting worse and worse. I think this is flawed because taking it away has done nothing for our education (from experience). This is because teachers don't focus on every student, especially the ones not focused in class. They should be assisted with their work and cheered on just as much as the smart students that are praised for how smart they are. There should be more tutors, and assistance with education and more resources online so that we can have help both in and out of school.

I know another reason for yours was that we are getting worse at communicating with other kids. That is a definite problem that I can see, but I think there was a flaw when you thought of this. When you banned the phones, there should have been something implemented in schools (especially Whangarei Girls) where there is something that replaces all the time on our phones at interval and lunchtime like more opportunities for activities eg: group sports on the courts & in the gyms or more sports equipment to borrow, board & card games to play with as a club or the opportunity to borrow and take back, and other activities that people could suggest. I think this should've been implemented because with our phones banned, we don't really have much to do at my school, and I think this is also the case for a lot of other schools.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.