

VSB Voices

Personal Digital Devices

What We Heard

May 2025



With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəṅəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

About VSB Voices

VSB Voices is a listening post that provides an opportunity for members of the community to share feedback and guidance to help inform the District's strategic planning and initiatives.

Earlier this school year, parents, guardians and caregivers of students currently enrolled in VSB, and adult learners attending VSB schools/programs were invited to join. More than 1,200 participants signed up to provide their feedback through VSB Voices.

Personal Digital Devices

In May, an invitation was distributed to members of VSB Voices requesting feedback about VSB's procedure on personal digital devices. The survey was open from May 21-30, 2025. Invitations to complete the survey were sent on May 21 with a reminder message distributed on May 27. The purpose of the survey was to gather feedback on whether VSB's personal digital device procedure is clear and if families believed it has had an impact in schools.

In total, 308 people provided feedback through this survey. As survey participants had the option to skip questions, responses to each question are not reflective of the total number of participants, but instead a portion of the participants who answered that question. The following is a summary of what we heard.

Key Findings

More than half of the respondents of the VSB Voices – Personal Digital Devices survey were elementary school families (52 per cent). Feedback indicated that 70 per cent of respondents' children own a personal digital device, primarily smartphones (77 per cent). While 71 per cent of respondents indicated that their children bring their devices to school, communication with parents/caregivers during the school day varies, with 38 per cent noting varying levels of contact.

Based on survey participant responses, the procedure is clear and there was a broad awareness of the procedure about personal digital devices at the start of the school year (85 per cent). When queried about ways to make the procedures clearer for students and their families, survey participants suggested additional communication outlining expectations, enforcement of the procedure in schools and more education about screen-related harms would be beneficial. Furthermore, respondents

indicated they believed this measure improved online safety (46 per cent) and to a greater extent, improved student engagement and learning (63 per cent).

Conclusion

This VSB Voices survey about the personal digital device procedure provided valuable findings into the preferences and needs of our VSB community.

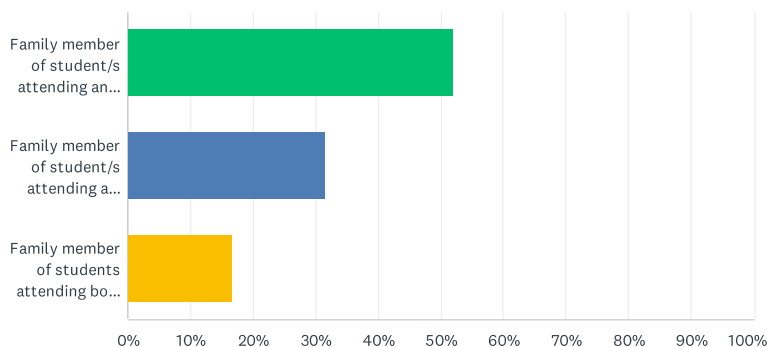
This survey uncovered insights that will be used by staff to further support VSB's personal digital device procedure and ensure better clarity and alignment about the procedure for staff, families and students across all VSB school communities. Thank you to all participants for your valuable contributions!

Appendix: Survey Results

VSB Voices - Personal digital devices

Q1 What describes you best?

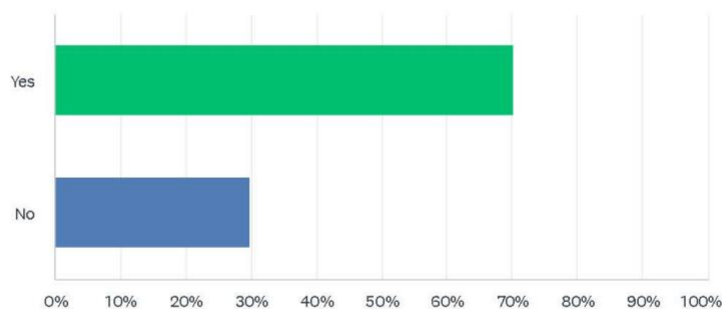
Answered: 308 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Family member of student/s attending an elementary school/program	51.95%	160
Family member of student/s attending a secondary school/program	31.49%	97
Family member of students attending both an elementary school/program and a secondary school/program	16.56%	51
TOTAL		308

Q2 Does your child have a personal digital device? (Such as a cell phone, tablet or other electronic device)

Answered: 309 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		70.23%	217
No		29.77%	92
TOTAL			309

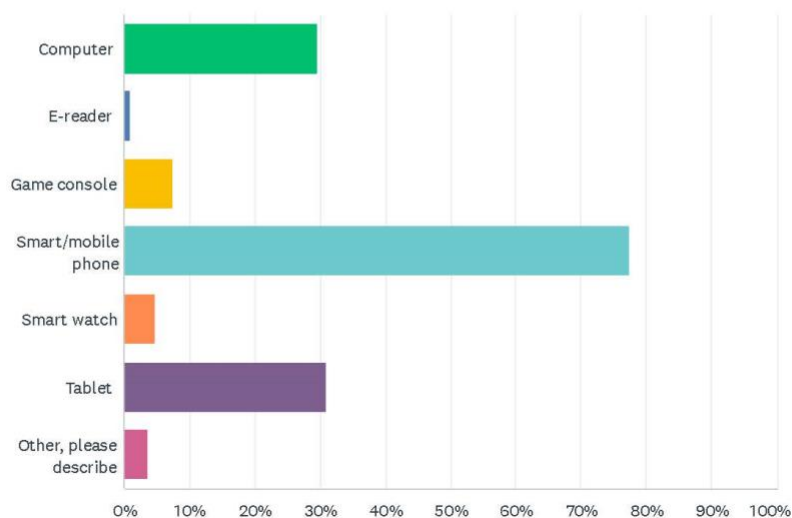
Q3 Is there anything VSB can do to make the personal digital device restrictions more clear for students and their families?

Answered: 240 Skipped: 69

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (explain)	67.50%	162
No (explain)	33.75%	81

Q4 What best describes your child's primary personal digital device? (Select all that apply)

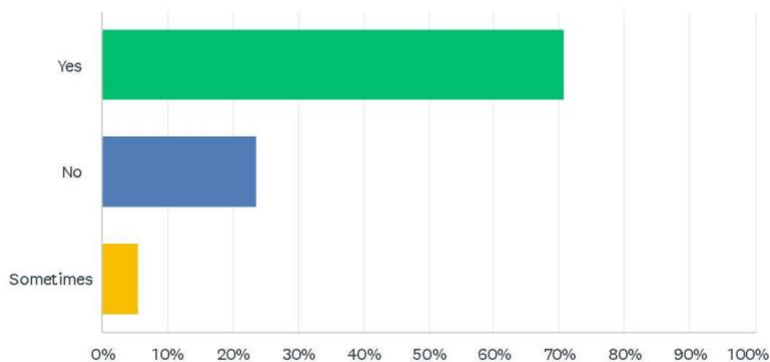
Answered: 216 Skipped: 93



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Computer	29.63%	64
E-reader	0.93%	2
Game console	7.41%	16
Smart/mobile phone	77.31%	167
Smart watch	4.63%	10
Tablet	31.02%	67
Other, please describe	3.70%	8
Total Respondents: 216		

Q5 Does your child bring their device to school?

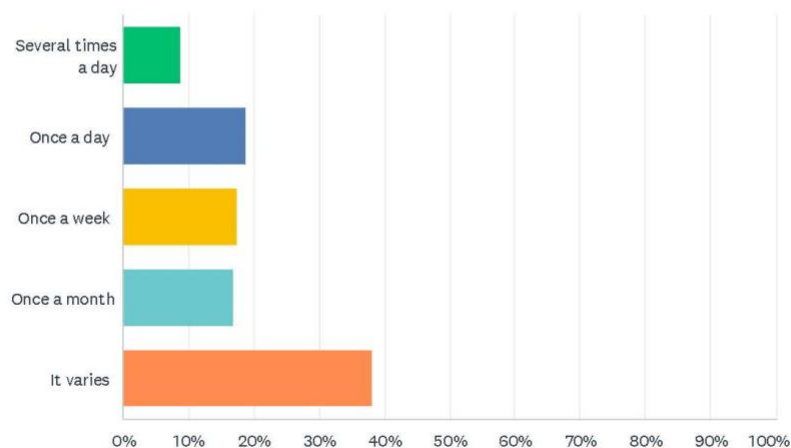
Answered: 216 Skipped: 93



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.83%	153
No	23.61%	51
Sometimes	5.56%	12
TOTAL		216

Q6 How often do you communicate with your child during the school day on their personal digital device?

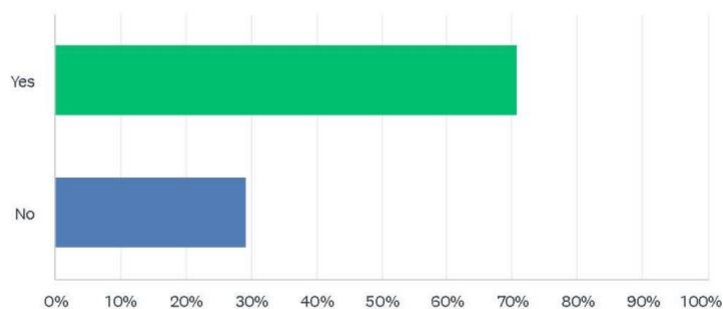
Answered: 160 Skipped: 149



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Several times a day	8.75%	14
Once a day	18.75%	30
Once a week	17.50%	28
Once a month	16.88%	27
It varies	38.13%	61
TOTAL		160

Q7 Are you aware of other ways you can contact your child(ren) during the school day?

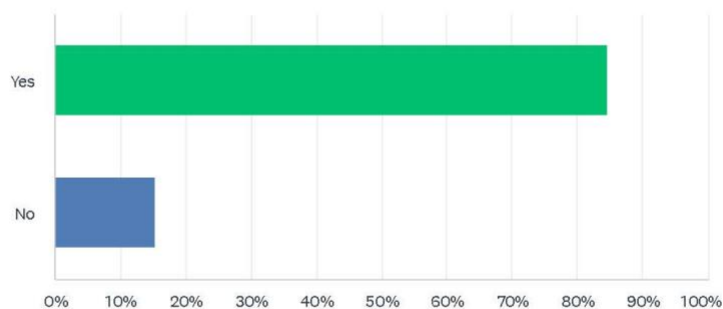
Answered: 305 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		70.82%	216
No		29.18%	89
TOTAL			305

Q8 Were you aware of VSB's procedure about personal digital devices at the start of the school year?

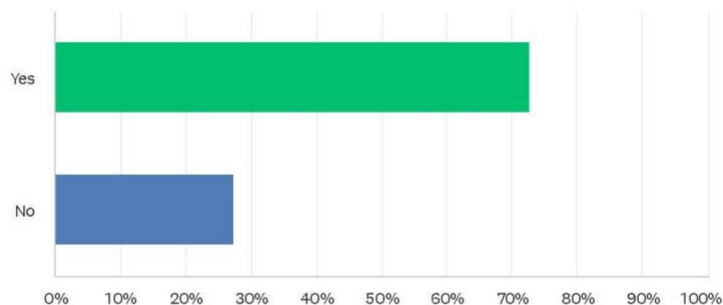
Answered: 305 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		84.59%	258
No		15.41%	47
TOTAL			305

Q9 Is VSB's procedure on personal digital devices clear to you?

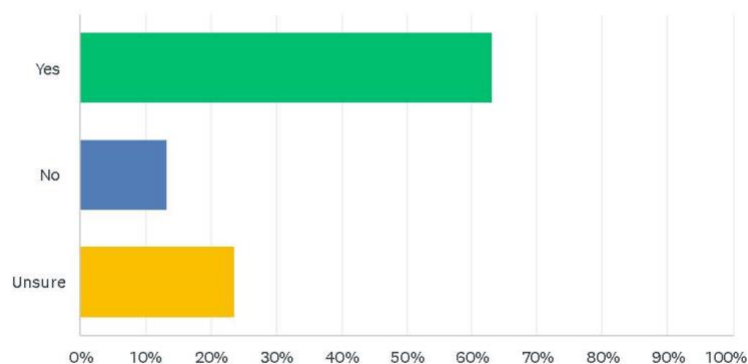
Answered: 305 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	72.79%	222
No	27.21%	83
TOTAL		305

Q10 Do you believe VSB's procedure on personal digital devices improves student engagement and learning?

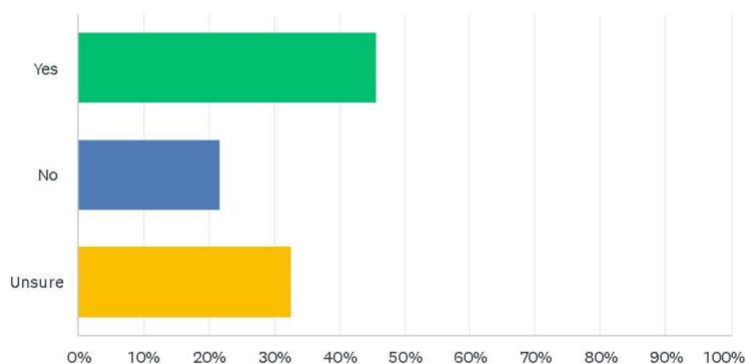
Answered: 304 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	63.16%	192
No	13.16%	40
Unsure	23.68%	72
TOTAL		304

Q11 Do you believe VSB's procedure on personal digital devices improves online safety for students?

Answered: 304 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	45.72%	139
No	21.71%	66
Unsure	32.57%	99
TOTAL		304