Enforcement and Effectiveness of Rules in Dealing with Cell Phone Use in the Classroom

Azad Ali, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
David Smith, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper examines the rules that are established to deal with cell phone use in the classroom during lecture time. The use of cell phone use in the classroom has been the subject of discussion in different studies. Some explain that cell phones can be used for useful purposes that help students in their learning. Others contend that their use cause distractions in the class and suggest that they should be banned from the classroom. However, to ban or to limit the use of cell phones in the classroom requires establishing rules that regulate their use. This study contrasts the categories of rules for dealing with cell phone use in the classroom. It gives background information about the use of cell phones in the classroom and the possible distractions they can cause. It explains the rules that are typically set for dealing with these issues. Last, this paper tabulates the different categories of rules in terms of enforceability and effectiveness and concludes with a recommendation regarding these rules.

Keywords: Rules of cell phone use in classroom, Regulating use of cell phone in the classroom, Etiquette of cell phone use in the classroom, Teaching of cell phone use in the classroom