

# Schools may allow cell phones

Students could be allowed to bring cell phones to school next year under legislation the state Senate Education Committee approved Wednesday on a 12-0 vote.

Senate Bill 1253, which is expected to go the Senate floor in a couple of weeks, would give school districts the discretion to make their own decisions on allowing cell phones on school grounds. State law now bans cell phones from schools.

Whittier-area educators applauded the bill, saying it would give them more local control but said they aren't sure what policy changes they might adopt in response, if the bill passes.

Charles Gomer, a Glendora Unified School District trustee, told the committee that districts should make the decision, not the state.

"As a board member, I've found that parents want students to have a cell phone for safety," Gomer said.