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Dear Washington Unified Families,

We want to make you aware of a current trend among young people involving novelty cell phone covers designed to mimic the appearance of a handgun.

The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority. As such, it is very important to take note these types of novelty items are treated with the utmost seriousness by our school leaders and may lead to student suspension and/or additional behavioral discipline.

Sensitivity is heightened at this time with all that is going on around us. Something that may seem innocent and comical to some, may indeed create a heightened level of concern and consequences as a result.

This is an opportunity to encourage students to not always follow along with certain trends we see and hear on the internet, television, and/or social media. We aren't always aware of the rationality behind that information nor the impact it may have in the long run.

As members of the same community and stewards of our schools, it is important that we work together when challenges arise. As you see appropriate, we ask that you use this example to engage in open dialogue with your students, friends, and families about the seriousness of this type of behavior.

As a friendly reminder, the best and most appropriate avenue to gain clarity on matters involving our schools is always to [contact the schools](#) directly. If you witness any suspicious activity, in or around a school site, please do not hesitate to contact your school's main office.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in the safety of all our students.