

Schools Turn to Lockable Phone Cases as a Tier 2 Intervention — NuGerm's NuKase Leads the Movement

Schools report major improvements in engagement and fewer disruptions after adopting the NuKase lockable phone case.

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-- NuGerm, creator of the NuKase
[lockable phone case](#), announced

widespread and growing adoption of
the NuKase system as a research-

aligned, scalable, and highly effective Tier 2 intervention within K-12 Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). Schools across the United States are reporting significant improvements in student engagement, reductions in classroom disruptions, and clearer consistency in behavior



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A Dean of Schools in New York

management after integrating NuKase into their intervention frameworks. Administrators note that the NuKase is not only improving classroom focus, but is also transforming how schools approach digital distraction through a predictable, non-punitive structure that supports students who require additional behavioral guidance.

In recent years, educators have faced an unprecedented challenge tied to personal technology. Student smartphone use during instructional time has become one of the most frequently cited sources of distraction, classroom disruption, and loss of instructional minutes. Teachers consistently report that phones undermine attention, increase off-task behavior, and contribute to anxiety, conflicts, and even academic decline. Districts searching for a sustainable [school phone policy solution](#) often struggle to find methods that work across classrooms without generating tension between students and staff. Confiscation presents legal and relational risks, traditional pouches wear out or require costly subscriptions, and “backpack rules” frequently fail because phones remain easily accessible.

NuGerm's NuKase system addresses these challenges through a durable, structured, and student-centered approach that aligns seamlessly with MTSS principles. The NuKase is a hard-shell, semi-transparent lockable phone case that securely stores a student's device throughout the day. The system prevents impulsive checking and reduces digital distractions, while still allowing staff to verify a phone is inside, something administrators say has significantly reduced time to enter school compared to pouches. This balance between accessibility and limitation is one of the reasons so many schools now view NuKase as an ideal Tier 2 intervention.

Administrators consistently report that students receiving [Tier 2 behavior support](#) benefit most from the NuKase. These are often students who struggle with impulsivity, attention regulation, or compliance with school routines, especially around device use. Schools implementing NuKase in Tier 2 plans report improved consistency across classes, reduced conflict with teachers, and increased academic engagement.

A Dean of Students who requested anonymity stated, "The NuKase is a simple and effective solution with a company that supports their use as a Tier 2 intervention." Additional administrators report that NuKase helps create structure without shame or confrontation, making it easier to maintain positive relationships with students.

The NuKase system works through a streamlined routine. Each morning, students place their phone into the case, which closes and locks with a sturdy, tamper-resistant mechanism. Students then proceed through the school day without the constant pull of digital notifications or the temptation to check social media, text messages, or gaming apps. Teachers repeatedly share that the presence of phones—even when supposedly put away—creates ongoing disruptions and challenges. With NuKase, teachers describe a calmer environment with more



sustained attention and fewer redirections. At dismissal or under supervised circumstances, staff quickly unlock the cases using NuGerm's dedicated unlocking tools and stations. This predictable cycle supports habit-building, lowers stress, and ensures equal enforcement across classrooms.

Educators also report measurable reductions in disciplinary referrals tied to noncompliance, distraction, or defiance. Many of these referrals previously arose when students refused to hand over phones or attempted to hide them. Because NuKase avoids the confrontational dynamic of confiscation, teachers feel more supported, and students feel less targeted. As a result, teachers regain instructional minutes, and student focus improves naturally without power struggles. The result is a more inclusive intervention that dignifies the student while still maintaining a structured environment.

Teachers, administrators, and psychologists have begun connecting the benefits of NuKase to research on adolescent behavior. Studies consistently show that smartphones impair working memory, attention, and emotional regulation, even when powered off or placed nearby. The simple presence of a smartphone can diminish cognitive resources and disrupt learning. For students already navigating the challenges that place them in Tier 2 behavior support, removing the constant lure of their device can open the door to more successful academic participation and emotional regulation. Schools find that by providing a neutral structure for phone management, the NuKase contributes meaningfully to the student's larger behavior and support plan.

Another reason the NuKase stands out from alternatives is durability. Many districts have used fabric locking pouches in the past, only to find them tearing, fraying, or failing due to daily student use. Frequent replacements become costly and unsustainable. The NuKase instead uses a rigid, high-strength material designed specifically for the wear and tear of a K-12 environment.



Administrators consistently cite the long lifespan of each case as a major advantage. The case's frosted design prevents visibility of personal content while still confirming notifications and ensuring transparency, which parents appreciate. In emergencies or urgent needs, students can easily request supervised unlocking, making the system both safe and responsive.

Districts also highlight how NuKase scales effectively. Whether used for a handful of Tier 2 students or deployed schoolwide to support consistent policy, the system adapts to a range of implementation models. Schools that implemented NuKase schoolwide have reported clearer expectations, fewer teacher complaints about device interference, and more structured daily routines. District leaders describe NuKase as a practical school phone policy solution that supports instructional time rather than relying on punitive or confrontational practices. The absence of subscription fees or recurring charges is another reason superintendents favor the system, especially when managing district budgets.

In addition to practical use, NuGerm provides comprehensive support for rollout, including implementation guides, training videos, staff talking points, and visual aids for students and families. These resources help ensure a smooth transition and promote buy-in from the entire school community. Administrators describe NuGerm as deeply responsive to school needs, adjusting resources based on feedback and continuously improving the product based on real-world use.

One principal described the NuKase rollout as "the smoothest phone policy shift we've ever attempted," noting that "students understood the expectations immediately, and teachers reported a dramatic improvement in engagement within days." Another administrator highlighted that NuKase helped reduce hallway conflicts and improved transition times because students no longer detoured to check phones between classes.

Schools also note broader emotional and social benefits. Reduced phone access has led to calmer hallways, more face-to-face interaction, and fewer social media conflicts spilling over into the school day. Counselors report that some students express relief at being "forced" to take a break from online pressures. Teachers frequently describe seeing students more present and socially connected, a change that aligns with broader goals of supporting student mental wellness.

The NuKase is increasingly recognized not only as a classroom management tool but as part of a broader effort to rebuild healthy student habits in a world dominated by digital distraction. For students overwhelmed by the constant pull of their devices, the NuKase creates a necessary pause that helps retrain focus and strengthen learning behaviors. When embedded in a larger MTSS strategy, NuKase provides a uniquely effective form of behavioral scaffolding that reinforces positive habits without judgment or exclusion.

As schools continue to navigate the complexities of modern learning, NuGerm remains committed to supporting educators with tools that protect instructional time, preserve student

dignity, and align with evidence-based behavioral frameworks. The NuKase is now used in schools across the country and continues to expand into districts seeking practical, sustainable solutions to phone-related challenges. NuGerm invites administrators, MTSS teams, district leaders, and instructional support specialists to explore how NuKase can strengthen Tier 2 programming and improve learning environments. Schools may request demonstrations, implementation guides, or informational meetings through NuGerm's website.

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