

PAA recommendations for appropriate, effective, healthful use of EdTech



Information, training and accountability

- Annual state and district reporting of all digital use, with substantial opportunity for public comment and input.
- Guidelines for teacher use on the length and amount of time on devices, storage/placement of devices, purpose of device use (e.g. creative activities and research rather than sheer content).
- Annual professional development for school staff on health and safety information related to wifi and screen time.
- Education for parents and the community on potential dangers of EdTech – what to look for, what questions to ask, how to advocate for appropriate, safe use of EdTech, and how to carry this over to the home.
- Parental consent should go beyond COPPA laws, which only require parental consent for technology that collects data until age 13. We urge school districts to require parental consent until age 18.
- Parental informed consent for in-school practices with potential health risks. These practices may include exposure to excessive screen time, prolonged sitting, and compromised student data.
- Parents should receive specific information each year about the digital devices and programs being used in each classroom and have the right to opt their children out of any program that requires the use of a digital device (including online testing). Students opting out must receive high-quality non-digital replacement instruction.

Limited screen time, more physical movement in school

- No in-school screen time before 3rd grade.
- Early childhood curriculum that emphasizes play-based learning over academics, following guidelines of early childhood education professionals (see, for example, <https://deyproject.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/position-paper-standards-and-testing-for-young-children.pdf>)
- Increased opportunities for hands on tinkering, crafts and projects for Pre-K-5th grade.
- No 1:1 devices before high school, and then with monitoring to limit laptop user distractions.
- Hand written note taking and writing of drafts for all subjects at the middle and high school level.
- Wired computer labs for whole group lessons, especially at the lower grade levels.
- Limited use of ebooks and interactive learning games in favor of paper books and partner and small group learning opportunities.
- Regular opportunities throughout the day (at least every hour) for movement, recess, gym, or other physical activity.
- Consider standing desks for all children.