

Dear Board of Education members,

As you know, technology has become pervasive in our lives and in our schools over the last 10 years. We have connected as a group of parents of Fairfield Public School children to raise our concern on continued increased use of educational technology (ed-tech) throughout the school day for children of all ages.

Overwhelming evidence is emerging highlighting a variety of issues arising from inconsistent, sub-optimal school technology policies. Often, schools are touting Chromebook/tablet use as “innovative” while not focusing on technology investments that offer children unique, high-level skills, such as robotics and website design, to name a few. We are asking the district to employ an intentional, research-based approach to technology and more frequent reviews of ed-tech policies. Given the rapid pace of technological change, a review every 3-5 years would be more appropriate than the current 10-year cycle. This review should encompass a comprehensive evaluation of ed-tech usage across all grade levels, including apps for K-5, homework assignments, and Chromebook usage in grades 6-8. Additionally, we should reassess the types of ed-tech used in the high schools and implement dedicated screen-free time across the board.

Research has shown the detrimental effects of screen addiction on our students' mental health and social well-being. We urge the Board to reconsider the fundamental reasons for using ed-tech, the appropriate age for introducing it, the over-reliance on it compared to traditional methods, and the consequences of constant use in high school. While it's essential for students to learn how to use technology, we must also prioritize teaching responsible usage and striking a balance. Our students need guidance in navigating the digital landscape safely and effectively. The use of technology haphazardly throughout the school day at all grade levels is not warranted to support the current state testing requirements.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

[parent name, and street address]

- Send your email to the following address:
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