Nebraska Statewide Call To Action:
Share your experience with educational technology in Nebraska schools.

Thank you for joining this statewide effort to advocate for all Nebraska students! This call to action is simple; write up your experiences with educational technology in K-12 Nebraska schools and send an email to **all** Nebraska State Board of Education Members. By emailing state board of education members, we can share all of our experiences with educational technology across our great state. Teachers, this is also for you. What are you seeing in your classroom?

Here are the email addresses of all Nebraska state board members for easy copy/paste into your email.
kristin.christensen@nebraska.gov, maggie.douglas@nebraska.gov, lisa.schonhoff@nebraska.gov, liz.renner@nebraska.gov, kirk.penner@nebraska.gov Sherry.jones@nebraska.gov, Elizabeth.tegtmeier@nebraska.gov, deborah.neary@nebraska.gov, brian.maher@nebraska.gov

What is educational technology?
Educational technology can mean many different things for many different people. Broadly, it means using digital devices like laptops, tablets, and 1:1 touchscreen systems (iPad and Chromebook) instead of traditional, hands-on learning experiences (paper and pencil) and human-to-human interaction.

Specific examples: iPads/Chromebooks/tablets, Learning Management Systems (Google classroom, Seesaw, Canvas), Adaptive Learning Software or Games (SuccessMaker, IXL, Lexia, Prodigy Math, iReady), Digital Learning Platforms (Epic, HMH Ed, Saavas Realize, and so many more depending on what curriculum your student's school utilizes), artificial intelligence (AI) search engines and tutors (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Amira AI reading tutor, Khanmingo), Gamification tools (Kahoot!, Blooket), Youtube brain breaks.

Questions to think about as you write your email:
-What has your student's experience been with educational technology in a Nebraska K-12 public school? Share your story!
-Do you know how long your student is on an iPad/Chromebook each day?
-Does your school use a 1:1 device model? 1:1 means each student has their own dedicated device (e.g., a Chromebook or iPad) rather than sharing with other students.
-Does your school provide transparency on what apps, digital platforms, and websites your student uses each day? How do they provide this?

-Does your school ask for parental consent for each data-collecting app or website your student uses?
-How well does your school communicate its technology and screen time policies to families?
-If the current technology policies or screen time levels at your student's school are working well for your family, please share what aspects you appreciate and why they are successful.
-What would you like to see changed? Be specific.
-Does your student have access to a web browser?
-Has your child or family experienced any specific harm or negative impact related to school technology or screen time?
-Does your student have access to generative AI tools?
-Do you know if your student's voice is being recorded by AI powered apps like Amira? Does your student read into an app and receive feedback on how they are reading?
-Does your school district provide a way for parents to opt their students out of screen based learning?

Stay Connected: If you would like to stay connected to this effort, fill out this google form once you have sent your email to the State Board of Education members. This is optional but will allow us to keep in touch with you and/or connect you to others who share this goal where you live. Link to Google Survey: https://forms.gle/W3HAkD7EJDeGi1KW9

State Board of Education: Board Members Website
https://www.education.ne.gov/stateboard/members/

District 1: Kristin Christensen, kristin.christensen@nebraska.gov

District 2: Maggie Douglas, maggie.douglas@nebraska.gov

District 3: Lisa Schonhoff, lisa.schonhoff@nebraska.gov

District 4: Liz Renner – Vice President, liz.renner@nebraska.gov

District 5: Kirk Penner, kirk.penner@nebraska.gov

District 6: Sherry Jones, Sherry.jones@nebraska.gov

District 7: Elizabeth Tegtmeier – President, Elizabeth.tegtmeier@nebraska.gov

District 8: Deborah Neary, deborah.neary@nebraska.gov

Dr. Brian Maher, Commissioner of Education, brian.maher@nebraska.gov

Sample Email Templates:

Dear Nebraska State Board of Education Members:

My name is _____ and I have students in the _____school district. I would like to share my specific examples of how my child has interacted with educational technology. (add personal examples)

Thank you for listening to all Nebraskans on this important and timely topic.

Sincerely,

Dear Nebraska State Board of Education Members:

My name is _____ and I have students in the _____school district. I would like to share my specific examples of how my child has interacted with educational technology.

I have concerns about how long my child is on their district issued Chromebook. I am not able to see which websites my child visits or see their daily work or tests for various subjects. I would like my district to provide transparency on screen time and website/app use for my child. (add personal examples)

My family loves our public school teachers and have heard that they, too, are frustrated with district mandated app or digital platform use. (add personal examples)

Thank you for listening to Nebraskans all across our state.

Sincerely,