

Low-Screen Instruction Option for Elementary and Middle School

Dear Superintendent [NAME] and School Board Members,

As parent/s whose child/ren have been impacted by the 1:1 program, we ask that the [SCHOOL DISTRICT] offer parents a choice to place their children on a low-screen instructional track for all core subjects.

Ensure the Basics for our Youngest Learners

Our children's education has been shortchanged by the heavy use of digital devices. [Studies](#) have shown that computer-based instruction does not aid learning, and, in fact, frequently hinders it. What's being called "personalized learning" is anything but "personal." Computerized instruction on iPads is not the way most children learn best.

Examples of Bypassed Skills: Writing and Reading from Books

[DISTRICT] promises mastery of cursive handwriting in third grade in the Program of Studies and has not delivered consistently, leaving many children all the way through high school not able to write or even read cursive. Cursive and printing [have been shown](#) to help students retain information (note-taking), improve reading fluency and improve fine motor skills.

Similarly, reading from screens is not the same as reading from print. [Studies](#) show that reading – especially nonfiction – from screens is more superficial and less likely to result in retention of information.

How much have we lost as we try to leap ahead?

What skills are lost by replacing authentic experiences with screens? Most kids are coming into [DISTRICT] with substantial "screen" experience and need not be taught how to use them. Teachers are seeing the lack of "soft skills" required for success, like: resolving peer conflicts, attending to a non-multimedia lesson, sustaining effort, and good motor skills.

Research shows devices being correlated with serious health problems and developmental and cognitive delays. Myopia, sleeplessness, anxiety, internet addiction, and attention issues are a few of the associated risks that we need to be concerned about. In several states, including Maryland, Oregon, and California, legislation concerning the use of devices in schools has either been passed or is under consideration.

As parents, we want low-screen instruction for our elementary and middle school learners while encouraging a love of learning and curiosity. **This track would include increased interaction with teachers and peers, less multiple-choice testing, daily reinforcement of handwriting and writing throughout their subjects, reading from print, and developmentally appropriate use of technology when it can be used in transformative ways.**

Help us ensure a solid foundation of the basics for our youngest learners.

Thank you,