

**Texas Education Agency
Technology Guidance
HB 3489**

Agency Guidance

The use of technology in classrooms and student access to digital devices should be done with intentionality, designed to improve student academic performance, and in consideration of student mental and physical well-being. Devices should not be used unless there is evidence that their use will lead to academic benefit.

Research Base

In accordance with HB 3489, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) consulted with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to create and distribute model health and safety best practice guidelines for the use of digital devices in local education agencies (LEAs). Attached to this guidance document is a policy brief containing the research base and general guidance on LEA usage of digital devices.

Board Policy Framework

TEA recommends that LEAs adopt a local school board policy related to student access to digital technology consistent with the following guidance:

- Student use of technology in school buildings should occur only when *intentionally* integrated within the school's instructional program.
- Technology usage should occur only with *intentionality* related to student learning and only when evidence establishes that the integration of technology into the curriculum improves student outcomes.
- The board policy framework will vary depending on who within the district is responsible for instructional design decisions: (a) central office directs curriculum usage and provides instructional materials; (b) school principals direct curriculum usage and provide instructional materials; (c) teachers design their own lessons and create their own instructional materials.
- The instructional designer, when incorporating technology usage into curriculum and individual lessons, should account for total student screen time and technology exposure over the course of the instructional day, week, and unit.
- In all grades, instructional designers should consider the negative cognitive impact of reading lengthy texts on a screen. All novels and other lengthy texts will be provided to students in paper form.

- When not required within the instructional design, teachers should receive permission from the school principal to utilize technology or expose students to digital devices.
- In the primary grades, instructional designers should expressly prioritize the development of student handwriting and other physical movement and developmental needs throughout the instructional day, minimizing digital device usage.
- Cell phone usage by students should not be permitted in school.
- Students should not have access to social media platforms in school.