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Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Rachel Latta, Director

Meeting Date August 12, 2026

Subject Responsible Use of 1:1 Student Devices

Ask of the Board

Approve the Resolution regarding “Responsible Use of 1:1 Student Devices”

Background

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) currently utilizes a variety of technology and devices, including Chromebooks, Google Classroom, and iReady, to provide an accessible and equitable learning environment. While technology is a valuable tool for college and career readiness, research indicates that it cannot replace direct instruction and must be carefully balanced with student health and well-being.

Wide-scale international studies demonstrate that increased daily screen time in the classroom consistently correlates with diminished academic performance in reading, mathematics, and science. Furthermore, the American Academy of Pediatrics has identified significant risks associated with excessive screen and device use, including vision problems, increased anxiety and depression, addictive behavior, reduced attention span, and weaker cognition. This is compounded by the fact that many students already spend multiple hours per day on screens outside of the classroom, and research indicates that 65% of children’s applications employ deceptive design features to intentionally extend screen time.

Currently, OUSD does not have comprehensive, evidence-based guidelines regarding the appropriate use of 1:1 devices. A Board-adopted resolution is necessary to establish clear expectations, define guardrails, and ensure that technology use within the District is developmentally appropriate, academically beneficial, and protective of student health.

Discussion

The proposed Resolution on Responsible Use of 1:1 Student Devices directs the Superintendent to develop grade-based, research-supported, and developmentally appropriate guidelines for student device use, including artificial intelligence tools. These guidelines will be developed in collaboration with teachers and school administration across grade spans, to be implemented for review and adoption no later than the final Board meeting of the 2026-2027 school year.

Key provisions included in the resolution address:

- **Ending Recreational Device Use:** The District will end the practice of allowing student 1:1 device use for recreational purposes, including during lunch, recess, and classroom free time.
- **Instructional Program Standards:** The District shall not adopt new instructional programs whose primary educational model relies on game-like reward systems, continuous engagement loops, behavioral reinforcement techniques, or excessive screen use as the primary means of instruction. Current programs and curricula will be evaluated for these characteristics prior to renewal.
- **Administrator Training:** The District will mandate professional learning for site administrators to understand the risks of 1:1 device use and inform best practices in preparation for a reduction of 1:1 device use starting in the 2027-2028 school year.
- **Protected Access:** The resolution ensures that students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan requires the use of 1:1 devices shall have their access fully protected.

The proposed resolution does not eliminate technology from the classroom; rather, it establishes clear standards so that when devices are used by students, it occurs safely, purposefully, and in alignment with OUSD's educational mission and student health objectives.

Fiscal Impact

To be determined prior to adoption

Attachment

Resolution on Responsible Use of 1:1 Student Devices - for board

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2627-0126
Responsible Use of 1:1 Student Devices**

WHEREAS, Oakland Unified School District strives to provide an education that prepares students to be college, community and career ready; and,

WHEREAS, this preparation includes adapting curricula to current and new technologies, but understanding that none can replace direct instruction; and

WHEREAS, OUSD currently utilizes a variety of technology and devices including but not limited to chromebooks, Google classroom, and iReady; and

WHEREAS, OUSD has goals of providing an accessible and equitable learning environment, which may include 1:1 device use for students, access to the internet outside of the traditional school day and individualized use of technology in alignment with a student's individualized education plan (IEP) or section 504 plan; and,

WHEREAS, there are known risks of screen and device use which according to the American Academy of Pediatrics¹ including the following:

- Vision problems
- Increased anxiety and depression
- Addictive behavior
- Reduced attention span
- Difficulty managing emotions
- Lower academic achievement
- Weaker cognition; and

WHEREAS, many OUSD students make personal use of screens for multiple hours per day outside of the classroom, often in addition to instructional use; and,

¹ <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/helping-kids-thrive-in-a-digital-world-AAP-policy-explained.aspx>

WHEREAS, wide-scale international studies² demonstrate that increased daily screen time in the classroom consistently correlates with diminished academic performance in reading, mathematics, and science; and,

WHEREAS, evidence³ for age-appropriate and prosocial use of technology and access to screens featuring high-quality content should guide educational practices; and,

WHEREAS, recent research⁴ indicates that deceptive design features such as game-like rewards, engagement loops, and screen-heavy delivery are commonly featured in children’s applications, with 65% of apps employing tactics to extend screen time and a majority pressuring users toward financial transactions or advertising engagement; and,

WHEREAS, OUSD provides guidance to optimize student health in other areas including, but not limited to, healthy eating and access to on-campus health centers; and,

WHEREAS, OUSD currently does not have evidence-based guidelines on appropriate use of 1:1 devices; therefore,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in light of the potential harms of digital technology use and the need to educate students to thrive in the modern world, the Board directs the Superintendent to develop grade-based, research-supported, and developmentally-appropriate guidelines for student device use, including “artificial intelligence” tools, in collaboration with teachers and school administration across grade spans and throughout the district to be implemented no later than the final Board meeting of the 2026-2027 school year for review and adoption; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District will end the practice of student 1:1 device use for recreational purposes, including at lunch, recess, and during classroom free-time; and,

² OECD, *PISA 2022 Results (Volume I): The State of Learning and Equity in Education* (Paris: OECD Publishing, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.1787/53f23881-en>; OECD, *PISA 2015 Results (Volume I): Excellence and Equity in Education* (Paris: OECD Publishing, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264266490-en>.

³ Sheri Madigan et al., "Associations Between Screen Use and Child Language Skills: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis," *JAMA Pediatrics* 174, no. 7 (2020): 665–675, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2020.0327>; Sarah M. Coyne et al., "A Meta-Analysis of Prosocial Media on Prosocial Behavior, Aggression, and Empathic Concern: A Multidimensional Approach," *Developmental Psychology* 54, no. 2 (2018): 331–347, <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0000412>.

⁴ Jenny Radesky et al., "Prevalence and Characteristics of Manipulative Design in Mobile Applications Used by Children," *JAMA Network Open* 5, no. 6 (2022): e2217641, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.17641>.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District will mandate professional learning for site administrators to understand the risks of 1:1 device use for students to inform best-practices in preparation for reduction of 1:1 device use starting 2027-2028; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the District shall not adopt new instructional programs whose primary educational model relies on game-like reward systems, continuous engagement loops, behavioral reinforcement techniques, or excessive screen instruction as the primary means of instruction and evaluate current instructional programs and/or curricula for these characteristics prior to renewal; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, students whose individualized education plan (IEP) or mandated 504 includes use of 1:1 devices shall have their access protected.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSED:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on August 12, 2026.

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By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Brouhard
President, Board of Education

Denise Gail Saddler, EdD, Superintendent and
Secretary, Board of Education