

NOAH WEBSTER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION MODEL POLICY

TO: TBD
FROM: Noah Webster Educational Foundation
RE: Restricting Technology Usage in Teaching Model Policy
DATE: TBD

This model policy seeks to help districts address growing concerns over the role of technology in schools. Specifically, this policy limits the use of technology during reading instruction.

Restricting Technology Usage in Teaching Model Policy

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BACKGROUND: Technology and its use in the classroom are growing issues as many teachers, parents, and education professionals try to balance the strengths of technology with its consequences and dangers. Additionally, there is growing concern about the effects of screen time on developing minds and the declining literacy rates across the country. To address these concerns, this policy sets standards and guidelines for how technology should be used in the classroom during reading instruction and the safe duration of screen time for students.

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Subject: Restricting Technology Usage in Teaching Model Policy

I. Description of Policy

This School Board/School Division seeks to provide the best education for students in its district, including efforts to improve literacy rates. Digital technology is a useful resource that is too often used in the classroom to aid reading and writing instruction. Scientific studies continue to show the positive effects of using physical media and resources for reading instruction and the harmful effects of using digital technology for these means. This policy outlines the appropriate resources for reading instruction, primarily by limiting the use of digital technology as a reading literacy resource.

II. Requirements for Limiting Digital Technology Usage

The purpose of schools within the [schoolboard district] is to ensure that all students receive high-quality instruction. Reading literacy is a building block for all future instruction. Digital technology changes the ways students process information, reduces reading comprehension, and encourages low-effort reading habits. To prevent these issues, all teachers and reading specialists within this district will be required to use physical media and resources for all reading instruction. If digital technology is used, these resources should not be incorporated into reading instruction for more than 30 minutes per day to reduce the harmful effects.

III. Reading Literacy Resource and Curriculum Requirements

All teachers and staff in [this district] involved in reading instruction will be required to prioritize the use of non-digital resources. All reading instruction and curriculum should meet the following requirements:

- A. Must prioritize physical resources such as print books, writing tablets (notebooks, erase boards, chalk boards, etc.), story mapping, and other similar resources.
- B. Must be evidence-based using resources and curriculum approved by the “Science of Reading” standard.
- C. Must include multi-faceted approaches such as the three-cueing method.