

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06-16
A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING BALANCED INSTRUCTION THROUGH REDUCED SCREEN USE

WHEREAS, the Burke County Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students receive a high-quality education that promotes academic excellence, critical thinking, and long-term retention of knowledge; and

WHEREAS, research consistently shows that handwriting and reading from paper materials enhance comprehension, memory retention, and cognitive engagement compared to reading or writing on digital screens; and

WHEREAS, pen-and-paper instruction encourages focus, minimizes distractions often associated with electronic devices, and fosters the development of fine motor skills and personal responsibility in note-taking and organization; and

WHEREAS, excessive screen time has been linked to increased eye strain, reduced attention spans, sleep disturbances, and negative effects on mental health, particularly in children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, many educators and parents in Burke County have expressed a strong preference for traditional instructional methods that reduce dependency on technology and encourage deeper learning; and

WHEREAS, the Burke County Board of Education recognizes that technology plays an essential role in modern education, including for remote learning days and digital curriculum components that are delivered exclusively through online platforms;

WHEREAS, while digital tools have an appropriate place in modern education, their use must be balanced with proven traditional methods to best support student achievement and well-being;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Burke County Board of Education affirms its support for pen-and-paper instruction as the primary mode of learning in classrooms, particularly for note-taking, reading comprehension, writing, and assessments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Burke County School District will prioritize investments in physical learning materials, including printed textbooks, notebooks, and writing supplies, and will provide professional development to educators on maximizing the effectiveness of traditional instruction methods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board encourages the responsible and limited use of digital devices, reserving screen time for activities where technology offers clear, evidence-based instructional advantages.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Burke County Board of Education on this 16th day of June 2025.



Mrs. Tiana Beachler, Board Chair

Attest:



Dr. Mike Swan, Superintendent/Secretary