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CARROLL
Independent School District

Carroll ISD Board Approves New Educational Technology Policy Reducing Student Screen Time Across All Grade Levels

Southlake, TX - The Carroll ISD Board of Trustees approved new educational technology guidelines Monday night that will reduce student screen time at every grade level across the District for the 2026-27 school year.

The guidelines, originally presented by Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gina Peddy during the August 3 Regular Board Meeting, establish age-appropriate expectations for technology use during classroom instructional time while affirming that classroom teachers remain the primary source of instruction and technology serves as a supplemental instructional resource. The new guidelines are designed to support student engagement and teacher-led learning while maintaining a balanced approach between digital and face-to-face learning experiences.

The changes build upon Carroll ISD's ongoing Dragons Unplugged initiative and the District's continued effort to ensure technology is used intentionally and only when it meaningfully supports student learning.

Under the newly approved guidelines, PreKindergarten and Kindergarten students will have zero minutes of daily classroom screen time. First-grade screen time will be limited to 0-15 minutes per day, while students in grades 2-4 will be limited to 0-20 minutes per day. Students in grades 5-6 will have a maximum of 50 minutes per day, while grades 7-8 will have up to 50 minutes per day depending on the course. At the high school level, students in grades 9-12 will be limited to 0-15 minutes per class depending on the course. These expectations represent reductions from the District's 2025-26 guidelines at every grade level.

For Carroll ISD's youngest students, the limits mean the overwhelming majority of each instructional day will remain screen-free. While 100% of the learning day will be outside of screen time for PreK and Kindergarten, first-grade technology use is limited to approximately 3.4 percent of the school day. Technology use for grades 2-4 is limited to approximately 4.5 percent. This means that for students in PreK through fourth grade, at least 95.5 percent of the school day remains outside the daily technology allowance.

The District's long-term goals call for continuing to evaluate opportunities to further reduce technology use. Future considerations include moving away from one-to-one devices and

transitioning students toward more traditional computer models, moving away from iPads in first grade and utilizing shared device carts in other elementary and intermediate grades.

Carroll ISD continues to be a leader in taking a thoughtful approach to student screen time, with limits that are lower than many surrounding districts and districts across the state. The District remains committed to prioritizing teacher-led instruction and meaningful learning experiences while using technology intentionally and only when it adds value to student learning.

The shift reflects the District's emphasis on direct instruction, reading, writing, meaningful discussion and hands-on learning, while recognizing the importance of preparing students with the skills they will need for the future.

"We have reviewed our curriculum, how students best learn, and evaluated where we can make the most impact on reducing screen time while preparing our students for the future," Board Secretary Christy Stacy said. "We are proud of the steps we're taking and look forward to continuing to evaluate this important area of curriculum and finding additional ways to reduce student screen time."

Board Vice President Andrew Yeager credited the District's Curriculum and Instruction Department for its work evaluating how technology is used in Carroll ISD classrooms.

"We are thankful for the hard work Ms. Peddy and the Curriculum and Instruction Department have put into evaluating student screen time and finding meaningful ways to reduce student screen use," Yeager said. "Carroll ISD will continue leading the way in this area as we evaluate year after year how our students learn best and how we can use technology intentionally while keeping high-quality, teacher-led instruction at the center of the classroom."

The more intentional approach to educational technology is also producing significant financial savings for Carroll ISD taxpayers.

Since the 2024-25 school year, Carroll ISD has reduced its technology budget by approximately 28 percent. The 2026-27 technology budget is also 8 percent lower than the 2025-26 budget. These savings reflect thoughtful reductions in technology use and more intentional decisions about the devices, programs, and other technology resources purchased and used throughout the District.

The new educational technology guidelines are part of Carroll ISD's broader commitment to continually evaluate instructional practices based on what best serves students. Technology will remain available as an instructional resource when appropriate, but it will not replace the teacher-led instruction, collaboration and active learning that remain at the center of the Carroll ISD classroom.

The District will continue evaluating screen-time practices in future years as it works toward even lower technology-use goals while ensuring students remain prepared for college, careers and life beyond Carroll ISD.

Read the full policy [here](#).