SHAWNEE MISSION
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Senate Bill 350: Age-Appropriate Device Act
Dr. Michael Schumacher, Superintendent, Shawnee Mission School District
Opponent Written
March 3, 2026

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee:

Shawnee Misison School District is opposed to the proposed age-appropriate device policy change in Senate Bill 350. The imposition of these administrative directions are contrary to the authority of locally elected school boards. That policy includes in particular our ability to communicate and engage with parents and determine policy that best fits our community.

Districts already set policies for the use of electronic devices. This policy is the result of thoughtful engagement with staff and parents around the curriculum, assessments, scores, and preparation for real world learning and making students college and career ready.

To be prepared in this learning and work environment is different from earlier times. As a board we do not want to stop time, nor ignore one of the most exceptional changes in the availability of knowledge and learning available through technology.

We disagree with the requireents in SB 350 regarding the “no technology” status for elementary classrooms. At the middle school level, shared technology among students and disallowing individual student technology, is unworkable given the breadth and geographic distribution of tens of thousands of students in our district. We are not alone.

The bill’s preference and requirement for physical books is both costly and redundant. The costs of purchasing physical books on a years-long time cycle is archaic compared to the reusable, adaptable and updatable electronic teaching aids.

Our district’s goal is a blend of in-person, hands-on books and materials, and technology to learn, grow, and function in our culture. We plan, monitor, adapt to the technology our college and career ready standards require and we do not support moving in the other direction.

If I can provide any additional information or answer questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

SHAWNEE MISSION
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Michael Schumacher
Superintendent