

SENATE BILL No. 350

By Committee on Education

1-21

AN ACT concerning education; relating to school districts; enacting the age-appropriate school device act; establishing limitations upon the use of digital devices in certain grade levels; establishing safety standards for such devices; authorizing parents to opt students out of the use of such devices in certain grade levels; establishing certain exceptions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) Sections 1 through 4, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the age-appropriate school device act.

(b) As used in the age-appropriate school device act:

(1) "Digital device" means any electronic device that is used for instructional purposes and can access, process, store or transmit data. "Digital device" includes laptops, tablets, chromebooks, smartphones and any similar device that has internet capability.

(2) "Parent" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 72-3127, and amendments thereto.

(3) "Person acting as parent" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 72-3127, and amendments thereto.

(4) "School" means any school operated by a school district that is organized and operating pursuant to the laws of this state. "School" does not include any virtual school as defined in K.S.A. 72-3712, and amendments thereto.

(5) "Social media platform" means any online website, web-based application, computer software or other internet medium that that allows an individual to become a registered user and create an account or profile for the purpose of allowing such individual to connect and interact with other users by creating, sharing and viewing user-generated content through such account or profile. "Social media platform" includes, but is not limited to, snapchat, instagram, facebook, X and tiktok.

(c) Each board of education of a school district shall implement the tiered introduction to digital devices in school as provided pursuant to this section.

(1) For grades kindergarten through five:

(A) Students shall not use any digital device in the classroom;

(B) all instruction shall be print-based and hands-on; and

(C) all tests and assessments, including standardized and statewide

1 assessments, shall be conducted using printed materials;

2 (2) for grades six through eight:

3 (A) Students may use digital devices that are shared between other
4 students or classrooms;

5 (B) schools shall not individually issue digital devices to students;

6 (C) any digital device that is owned or contracted by the school and
7 used for instructional purposes shall be set up or programmed to restrict
8 access to any non-instructional content, including social media platforms
9 and any shared video or media platforms;

10 (D) students shall use physical copies of textbooks and not use online
11 or digital textbooks;

12 (E) the total amount of time that a student spends on any digital
13 device during normal school hours shall not exceed one hour per school
14 day;

15 (F) a student's use of any digital device during normal school hours
16 shall be for instructional purposes only;

17 (G) digital devices that are owned or contracted by the school for
18 instructional purposes shall remain on the school premises; and

19 (H) the school shall provide age-appropriate media literacy
20 instruction to all students. Such instruction shall include a lesson on the
21 various health-related harms associated with excessive digital device use
22 and social media platforms. Such instruction shall be delivered without the
23 use of a digital device; and

24 (3) for grades nine through 12:

25 (A) A school may individually issue digital devices to students for
26 instructional purposes;

27 (B) the total amount of time that a student spends on a school-issued
28 digital device during normal school hours shall not exceed one hour and
29 30 minutes per school day;

30 (C) a student's use of any school-issued digital device shall be for
31 instructional purposes only;

32 (D) any assignments or homework that require the use of a school-
33 issued digital device outside of normal school hours shall not require a
34 student to use such digital device for more than one hour per day to
35 complete such assignments or homework;

36 (E) online or digital textbooks may be utilized if there are no other
37 alternative options to provide such instruction; and

38 (F) the school shall provide age-appropriate media literacy instruction
39 to all students. Such instruction shall include a lesson on the various
40 health-related harms associated with excessive digital device use and
41 social media platforms. Such instruction shall be delivered without the use
42 of a digital device.

43 Sec. 2. (a) If a school issues digital devices to students in grades nine

1 through 12 in accordance with section 1, and amendments thereto, such
2 school shall ensure that certain digital device set-up and safety standards
3 are implemented prior to issuing any such digital device to a student. Such
4 digital device set-up and safety standards shall:

5 (1) Enable screen-time settings that allow the student's parent or
6 person acting as parent to track and support healthy screen-time practices;

7 (2) disable the camera on the digital device;

8 (3) block access to social media platforms; and

9 (4) require that the default privacy and safety settings be configured
10 to provide the highest level of privacy and safety settings that are available
11 on such digital device.

12 (b) Each school shall ensure that any personal information retained on
13 a school-issued digital device be deleted prior to any subsequent issuance
14 of such digital device to another student.

15 Sec. 3. (a) Any school that plans to issue a digital device to students
16 in any of the grades nine through 12 shall accept and comply with a
17 written request from a parent or person acting as parent of a student to opt
18 such student out of any of the following:

19 (1) The issuance of a digital device to such student;

20 (2) any requirement that a student shall take a digital device home or
21 away from the school premises; or

22 (3) use of a digital device for standardized testing or assessments.

23 (b) Any student who is opted out of any digital device use pursuant to
24 subsection (a) shall not be subject to any retaliation or discrimination on
25 the basis of such parental action.

26 Sec. 4. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this act, a school may
27 authorize any student to use a digital device if such use is:

28 (1) Required for the implementation of a student's individualized
29 education program or 504 plan; or

30 (2) approved by an individual licensed by the state board of healing
31 arts to practice medicine and surgery or a mid-level practitioner as defined
32 in K.S.A. 65-1626, and amendments thereto, as a medical necessity to
33 support the health or well-being of the student.

34 (b) The provisions of this act shall not apply to any virtual school as
35 defined in K.S.A. 72-3712, and amendments thereto.

36 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
37 publication in the statute book.