

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT PRESENTATION ON
HCPS Intentional and Purposeful Use of Classroom Technology

October 26, 2026

Background:

Harford County Public Schools provides students with district-managed devices to support teaching and learning. The American Academy of Pediatrics emphasizes that the quality of children's media use matters more than total screen time, and that screens should not displace healthy routines. Guided by this principle, student device settings and practices have been reviewed to ensure technology is used intentionally and purposefully to support instruction.

Discussion:

This presentation provides an overview of the recommendations developed to support the intentional and purposeful use of technology and the digital wellbeing of HCPS students.

At all levels, devices may only be used for a clear instructional purpose, with no device access unless teacher-directed. This expectation was paired with the Intentional and Purposeful Use of Technology professional development session, where teachers were supported in making purposeful decisions about classroom technology.

Elementary and middle school overnight restrictions were piloted at two schools. Based on positive feedback from parents at both pilot schools, the overnight restriction pilot will be expanded to additional elementary and middle schools at the beginning of the second quarter. The restrictions use Google's Device Restriction Schedule, which closes active sessions and prevents sign-in during restricted hours. At participating schools, elementary student devices will not be accessible from 9:00 PM to 6:00 AM, and middle school student devices will not be accessible from 11:00 PM to 5:00 AM.

In addition, YouTube and web search were disabled at the elementary level.

Curriculum supervisors, librarians, and teachers will continue to explore the instructional use of YouTube to determine whether further restrictions are appropriate for middle school students.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the Board of Education accept this informational report outlining the initial recommendations that will guide the intentional and purposeful use of student devices in Harford County Public Schools.