

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILLS NOS. 2230 & 2978

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5744S.05C

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapters 160, 162, and 186, RSMo, by adding thereto four new sections relating to elementary and secondary education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapters 160, 162, and 186, RSMo, are amended
2 by adding thereto four new sections, to be known as sections
3 160.068, 162.192, 186.085, and 186.095, to read as follows:

160.068. 1. This section shall be known and may be
2 cited as the "Student Screen-Time Standards Act".

3 2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

4 (1) "Instructional technology", a laptop, tablet,
5 computer, Chromebook, smart device, software platform, or
6 other similar device or platform used for student learning;

7 (2) "Manipulatives", hands-on physical learning items
8 including, but not limited to, blocks, counters, cubes,
9 rulers, cards, science materials, and similar educational
10 tools;

11 (3) "Traditional materials", printed books, paper-
12 based workbooks, notebooks, handwriting materials, and
13 physical educational resources.

14 3. For elementary school students in kindergarten
15 through grade five, each school district and charter school
16 shall adopt a written screen time and instructional

17 technology policy consistent with this section to promote
18 the educational interests of students, prevent the harmful
19 effects of screen time on child development, ensure that
20 technology supports rather than supplants foundational
21 learning, and restore evidence-based practices. The screen
22 time and instructional technology policy shall establish the
23 following:

24 (1) Limits and restrictions on student screen time and
25 student use of instructional technology during the school
26 day;

27 (2) Limits and restrictions on school district- or
28 charter school-issued devices or school district or charter
29 school educational technology being used outside the school
30 day;

31 (3) Limits and restrictions on student access to
32 internet-connected instructional technology;

33 (4) The digital platforms used;

34 (5) Standards and requirements for student use of
35 manipulatives and traditional materials;

36 (6) The process for a parent or guardian to obtain
37 information regarding his or her child's screen time and
38 instructional technology use and the process for a parent or
39 guardian to limit or eliminate his or her child's screen
40 time and instructional technology use; and

41 (7) The research, evidence, and information upon which
42 the policy is based.

43 4. In creating the policy, the district or charter
44 school shall consider and document research on best
45 practices in literacy instruction, instructional technology,
46 and assessment and the optimal role for the use of
47 handwriting and cursive writing in promoting literacy for
48 all students.

49 5. Each elementary school shall notify parents and
50 guardians annually of the policy adopted under subsection 3
51 of this section. Parents and guardians of students in
52 grades kindergarten through five may, upon request, receive
53 information about their child's login time and use of
54 district-provided instructional technology and online
55 learning platforms. The district or charter school shall
56 provide such available information within a reasonable time
57 and at no cost to the parent or guardian.

58 6. Each elementary school shall publish such policy on
59 such school's website.

60 7. Each policy adopted under subsection 3 of this
61 section shall be periodically updated, including
62 incorporating the best practices recommendations from the
63 recommended model school board policy on screen time and use
64 of technology in instruction from the framework on classroom
65 use of screens (FOCUS) council created under section
66 186.095, when such recommendations become available.

67 8. This section shall be implemented before the end of
68 the 2027-28 school year and shall apply for all subsequent
69 school years.

70 9. This section shall not apply to virtual instruction
71 programs operating under the provisions of section 161.670.

 162.192. 1. For purposes of this section, "financial
2 ledger" means a searchable, machine-readable, publicly
3 accessible database maintained by a school district or
4 charter school that:

5 (1) Sets forth all financial transactions conducted
6 with school district or charter school funds, including, but
7 not limited to, the school funds established pursuant to
8 section 165.011;

9 (2) Is available without login credentials,
10 registration, or fees;

11 (3) Is downloadable and exportable in formats
12 including, but not limited to, comma-separated values (CSV)
13 format and Microsoft Excel format;

14 (4) Records all transactions using Missouri financial
15 accounting manual classification categories, as applicable;
16 and

17 (5) Includes the following minimum required data
18 fields for each financial transaction, and is searchable and
19 filterable by such fields, at minimum:

20 (a) Transaction date;

21 (b) Transaction amount;

22 (c) Revenue or expenditure designation;

23 (d) Fund code;

24 (e) Function code;

25 (f) Object code;

26 (g) Vendor or payee name; and

27 (h) Description or memo field.

28 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the
29 contrary, each school district and charter school shall
30 maintain a financial ledger on its publicly accessible
31 website. The homepage of each public or charter school's
32 website shall include a direct link to the financial ledger
33 of the school district or charter school that has oversight
34 responsibility for that public or charter school. The link
35 shall make the financial ledger accessible within one click,
36 shall be clearly labeled as a link to the school district's
37 or charter school's financial ledger, and shall be
38 functional and mobile-responsive. The department may
39 provide standardized language or icons that public and

40 charter schools may use for the purpose of ensuring
41 compliance with this subsection.

42 3. A school district's or charter school's financial
43 ledger shall be updated at least monthly. Details of each
44 calendar month's financial transactions shall be posted no
45 later than forty-five days after the close of that calendar
46 month.

47 4. For historical record keeping purposes, a school
48 district or charter school shall maintain complete financial
49 ledger data on its publicly accessible website for no fewer
50 than five prior fiscal years.

51 5. A school district or charter school may redact
52 protected personal information on the financial ledger only
53 to the extent required by applicable law. Vendor names,
54 amounts, and accounting codes shall not be redacted.
55 Payroll data may be presented in aggregated form where
56 disclosure of individual information is restricted.

57 6. Debt obligations shall be posted in a separate
58 section of the financial ledger, with disclosure of the
59 following information:

- 60 (1) Outstanding debt balances;
- 61 (2) Issuance dates;
- 62 (3) Repayment schedules;
- 63 (4) Annual debt service amounts; and
- 64 (5) Debt service as a percentage of total expenditures.

65 7. The department may provide or approve standardized
66 templates or platforms a school district or charter school
67 may use to comply with the provisions of this section. A
68 school district or charter school may use a third-party
69 template or platform that is approved by the department.

70 8. The department may provide guidance to assist
71 school districts and charter schools in complying with the
72 provisions of this section. Such guidance may include:

73 (1) High-level expenditure summaries by classification
74 category under the Missouri financial accounting manual;

75 (2) Standardized definitions of terms to be used in
76 the financial ledger; and

77 (3) Clear explanations of methodology and limitations
78 applicable to the compilation and presentation of financial
79 ledger data.

80 9. School districts and charter schools shall annually
81 certify compliance with this section to the department. The
82 department shall promulgate rules establishing procedures
83 and timelines for school districts and charter schools to
84 certify compliance.

85 10. If the department finds that any school district
86 or charter school has violated a provision of this section,
87 the department may withhold up to one percent of the state
88 aid to which the school district or charter school is
89 entitled under chapter 160 or 163 for the current school
90 year until the school district or charter school proves to
91 the satisfaction of the department that the school district
92 or charter school is no longer in violation of this section.

93 11. The department shall establish a process for
94 members of the public to file complaints with the department
95 if they believe a school district or charter school has
96 violated any provision of this section. The department may
97 establish a public compliance dashboard on the department's
98 website to enable members of the public to check whether a
99 particular school district or charter school is certified as
100 in compliance with the provisions of this section.

101 12. The department shall promulgate rules to implement
102 the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a
103 rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is
104 created under the authority delegated in this section shall
105 become effective only if it complies with and is subject to
106 all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable,
107 section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are
108 nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the
109 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay
110 the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
111 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of
112 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after
113 August 28, 2026, shall be invalid and void.

 186.085. The literacy advisory council established
2 under section 186.080 shall provide advice on the inclusion
3 of instruction and assessment of cursive writing and
4 reading, including the optimal role for the use of cursive
5 writing and reading in promoting literacy for all students.
6 Such advice shall include recommendations for a related
7 model policy on cursive.

 186.095. 1. The commissioner of education shall
2 establish a "Framework on Classroom Use of Screens Council"
3 or "FOCUS Council". The council shall consist of the
4 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, who shall
5 serve as chair of the council. The other members of the
6 council shall be appointed as specified in this subsection
7 and shall include the following:

8 (1) One parent of a child currently enrolled in grades
9 kindergarten through grade five shall be selected by the
10 president pro tempore of the senate;

11 (2) One parent of a child currently enrolled in grades
12 kindergarten through grade five shall be selected by the
13 speaker of the house of representatives;

14 (3) One education professional selected by the state
15 board of education from names submitted to it by the
16 professional teachers' organizations of the state;

17 (4) One education professional selected by a statewide
18 association of Missouri school boards;

19 (5) One education professional selected by the state
20 board of education from names submitted to it by a statewide
21 coalition of school administrators;

22 (6) Two education professionals selected by the
23 president pro tempore of the senate in addition to the
24 member selected under subdivision (1) of this subsection;

25 (7) Two education professionals selected by the
26 speaker of the house of representatives in addition to the
27 member selected under subdivision (2) of this subsection;

28 (8) One education professional selected by the
29 governor;

30 (9) One education professional selected by the
31 lieutenant governor;

32 (10) One education professional selected by the
33 commissioner of higher education;

34 (11) One education professional selected by the state
35 board of education from names submitted to it by nationally
36 recognized career and technical education student
37 organizations operating in Missouri;

38 (12) One education professional selected by the state
39 board of education from names submitted to it by the heads
40 of state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation
41 programs located in Missouri;

42 (13) A pediatric mental health professional or board-
43 certified behavioral analyst licensed in the state,
44 preferably with experience in technology and behavioral
45 responses, selected by the speaker of the house of
46 representatives; and

47 (14) A medical professional with expertise in child
48 health and development selected by the governor.

49 2. The department of elementary and secondary
50 education shall provide necessary staff and resources for
51 the work of the advisory council.

52 3. (1) The council shall meet at least four times per
53 year in its initial year and at least twice per year
54 thereafter to conduct a comprehensive survey and analysis of
55 screen time and instructional technology use in public
56 schools and to review best practices regarding screen use
57 and the use of technology in instruction and related policy
58 provisions. Items and information related to such best
59 practices and policies shall include, but not be limited to:

60 (a) Impacts on educational outcomes;

61 (b) Impacts on behavioral and discipline outcomes;

62 (c) Impacts on special education;

63 (d) Impacts on early childhood brain development,
64 including reading and writing skills;

65 (e) The deterioration of student competency in
66 reading, writing, arithmetic, and science;

67 (f) The need to strengthen human connection in
68 classrooms and support healthy, respectful relationships;

69 (g) The isolation of students in a digital and virtual
70 world; and

71 (h) Other such items and information to be determined
72 by the council.

73 (2) The council shall meet for the first time for
74 purposes of this subsection before December 1, 2026, and the
75 whole council or a subcommittee thereof shall hold at least
76 three additional meetings for purposes of this subsection
77 before July 1, 2027.

78 (3) On or before July 1, 2027, the council shall
79 submit a report containing the council's actions, findings,
80 recommendations, and policy proposals to the state board of
81 education, the governor, and the joint committee on
82 education.

83 (4) The recommendations shall include a recommended
84 model school board policy on screen time and instructional
85 technology use. The model policy shall recommend best
86 practices regarding:

87 (a) Student screen time;

88 (b) Student use of instructional technology;

89 (c) Restrictions on student screen time;

90 (d) Restrictions on student use of instructional
91 technology;

92 (e) Restrictions on student access to internet-
93 connected instructional technology;

94 (f) Student use of manipulatives and traditional
95 materials, as such terms are defined in section 160.068;

96 (g) The process for a parent or guardian to obtain
97 information regarding his or her child's screen time and
98 instructional technology use;

99 (h) Minimizing or eliminating school district- or
100 charter school-issued devices or school district or charter
101 school educational technology being used outside the school
102 day; and

103 (i) The process for a parent or guardian to limit or
104 eliminate his or her child's screen time and instructional
105 technology use.

106 (5) The recommendations may include suggested changes
107 to state law.

108 (6) The report shall be presented to the state board
109 of education and to the joint committee on education in
110 public hearings. The report shall be updated at least every
111 two years to provide additional information regarding the
112 council's actions, recommendations, and policy proposals.

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