

25/26-GA-10

Spontaneous

Resolution

[HB-0163 \(SB-0079\)](#)

Title: County Boards of Education - Student Technology Use Policy - Requirements

Sponsored by: Delegates Wu, Kaufman, T. Morgan, Pasteur, Patterson, and Ziegler

Committee Assignment: Ways and Means

FOR the purpose of requiring county boards of education to develop and adopt policies governing student use of personal electronic devices during the school day; limiting nonessential personal technology use while allowing appropriate exceptions for educational purposes, student health needs and accommodations outlined in a student’s individualized education program or section 504 plan; reducing classroom distractions, cyberbullying, and technology-related conflicts; improving student focus, academic performance, and peer interaction .

Proposed Position: SUPPORT

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WHEREAS, constant access to personal electronic devices during instructional time has been linked to increased classroom distractions, decreased academic focus, and higher rates of cyberbullying; and

WHEREAS, the bill requires county boards to adopt a formal policy to limit personal technology use during instructional time while maintaining essential exceptions for educational purposes and health monitoring, such as accommodations within IEPs or 504 plans; and

WHEREAS, data from pilot programs in Maryland schools reported by WYPR and Baltimore Public Media (2024) indicate that structured limitations on phone usage result in higher student engagement and improved grades, with 69% of 455 Baltimore County teachers reporting a significant reduction in classroom distractions; and

WHEREAS, studies by the National Communication Association show that students who refrain from phone use during instruction demonstrate 62% higher information retention in their notes and score an average of 13% higher on test scores than those actively using devices; and

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WHEREAS, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Task Force on Cell Phone Use (2025) recommends that county boards adopt formal policies to limit technology use while maintaining exceptions (e.g. section 504 plans, health accommodations, etc.). ; and

WHEREAS, MASC supports “[e]fforts to reduce classroom disruptions in school” (MASC Platform, Plank IV; E); therefore, be it hereby

RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils supports HB0163 County Boards of Education - Student Technology Use Policy - Requirements

“Baltimore County schools see early benefits of cell phone restrictions” WYPR - 88.1 FM Baltimore

“The Impact of Mobile Phone Usage on Student Learning”(2013) by Jeffrey H. Kuznekoff and Scott Titsworth

“Task Force on Cell Phone Use in School Report”(2025), *Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland State Board of Education*