Focused & Present

Extending Oklahoma's Leadership on Tech in Schools

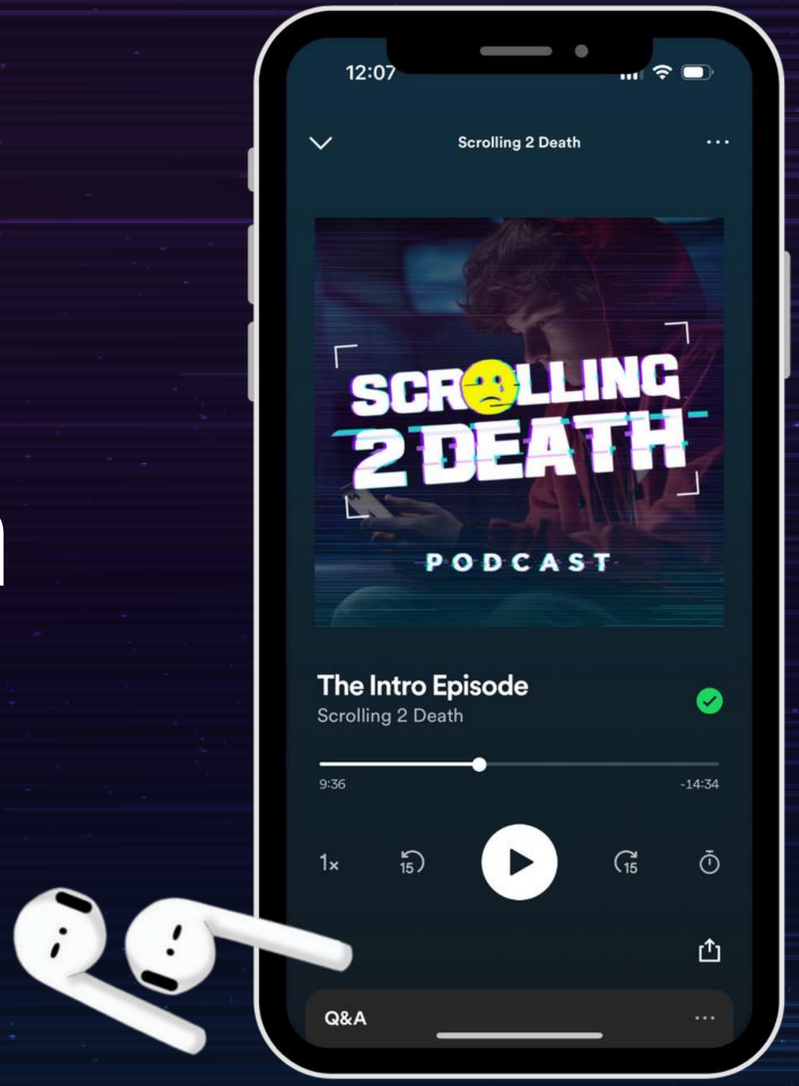
Presented by: Nicki Petrossi

Founder of S2D Foundation | Host of the Scrolling 2 Death Podcast | Co-Founder of Tech-Safe Learning Coalition (TLC)

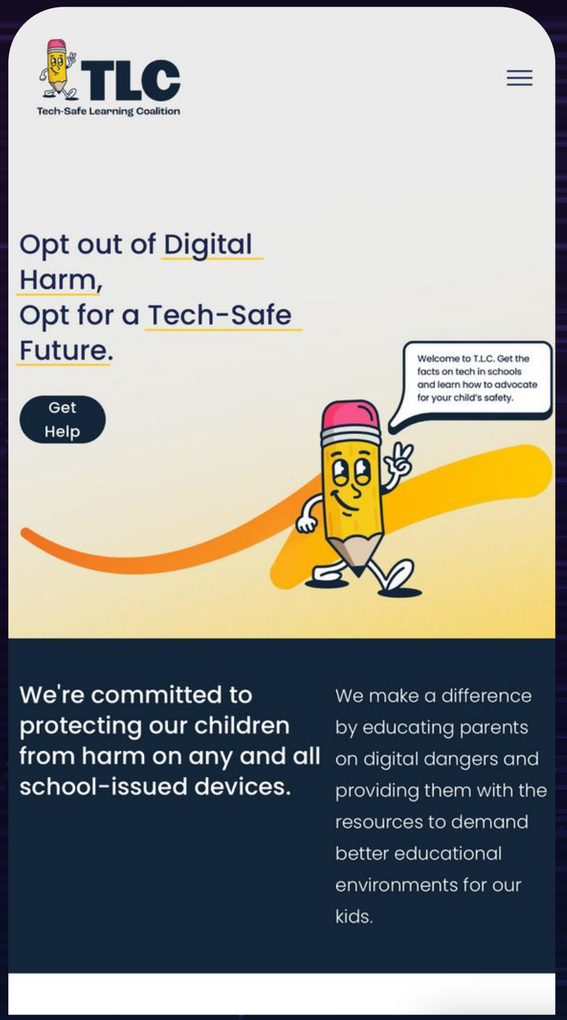
Hello!

I'm Nicki.

scrolling2death.com



techsafelearning.org



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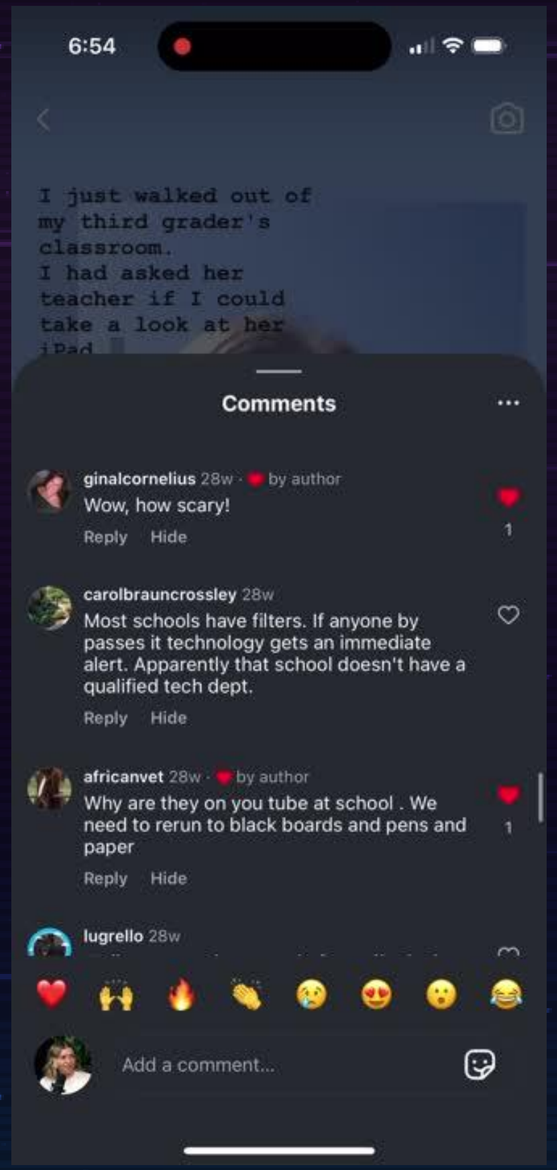
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I just walked out of my third grader's classroom.
I had asked her teacher if I could take a look at her
Comments
ginalcornelius 28w · by author
Wow, how scary!
Reply Hide
1
carolbrauncrossley 28w
Most schools have filters. If anyone by passes it technology gets an immediate alert. Apparently that school doesn't have a qualified tech dept.
Reply Hide
africanvet 28w · by author
Why are they on you tube at school . We need to rerun to black boards and pens and paper
Reply Hide
1
lugrello 28w
Add a comment...

THE DOWNFALL
OF LEARNING
WITH JARED COONEY HORVATH
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH MATT MILES & JOE CLEMENT

SCHOOLED
BY SCREENS
WITH SOPHIE WINKLEMAN
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
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WITH TARA HODGSON
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

DEVICES AT SCHOOL
TOO FAR?
WITH CHRIS MCKENNA
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH MATT BRADY

THE IMPACT OF
TECH ON LEARNING
WITH LAUREN PAER
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
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SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH KARA WADDELL

EDTECH IS FAILING
OUR KIDS
WITH ANDREW LIDDELL
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH DEAN BAVISOTTO
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH MRS. C

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH BROOKE NATZKE
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

BELL TO BELL
SCHOOLS FIGHT BACK
WITH PRINICPAL TORIGIAN
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH JASON ROBINSON, PhD
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH PRINCIPAL REAGAN BERRY

PERSONALIZED
A.I. LEARNING
THE WAY OF THE FUTURE?
WITH MACKENZIE PRICE
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH JESSICA MOORE
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

WE NEED TO
RETHINK EDTECH
WITH DENISE CHAMPNEY
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH KATHLEEN BARLOW
SCROLLING 2 DEATH

TEACHERS TALK
THE TRUTH ABOUT
SCREENS AT SCHOOL
WITH RONNA GLICKMAN

DIRECTORY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
EEOB

Agenda

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The State of EdTech - How’s it been going?

02

How Children Learn

03

The State of EdTech

04

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Avoiding the same mistakes with AI

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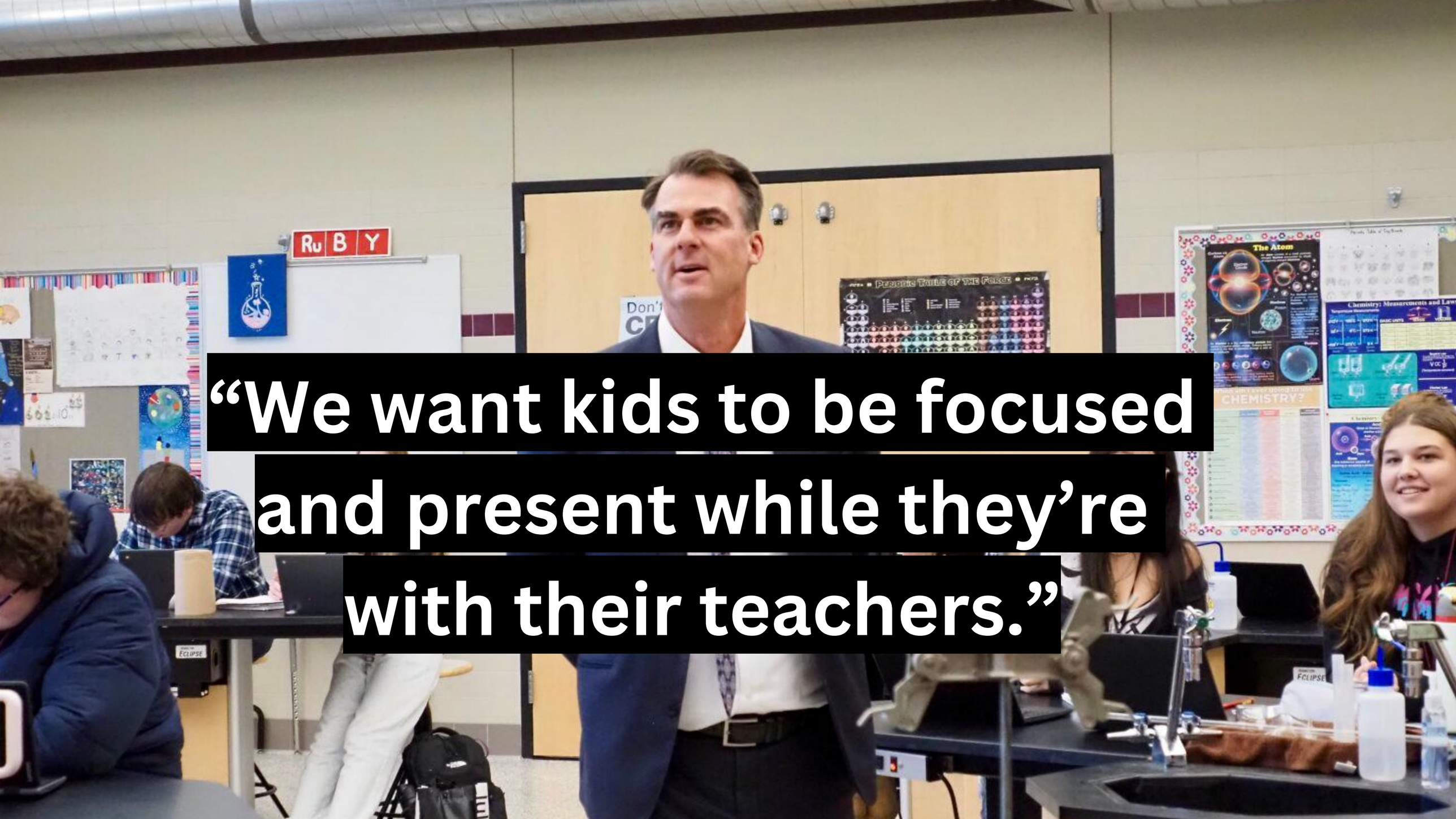
PERIODIC TABLE OF THE FORCE
The Atom
CHEMISTRY?



“We want kids to be focused and present while they’re with their teachers.”

“This legislation helps promote an environment conducive to learning.”

Ru B Y
PERIODIC TABLE OF THE FORCE
The Atom
CHEMISTRY?

ECLIPSE

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“We want kids to be focused and present while they’re with their teachers.”

“This legislation helps promote an environment conducive to learning.”

“We want kids to be focused and present while they’re with their teachers.”

When using a laptop during class, students spend 38 minutes of every hour off task.

When using a laptop for homework, a student lasts fewer than 6 minutes before accessing social media, messaging friends and engaging with other digital distractions.

Computers & Education 2014

“We want kids to be ~~focused~~ and ~~present~~ while they’re with their teachers.”

The Distractions

Nearly ⅓ of all teens are exposed to pornography during the school day, with 44% accessing it on a school-issued device.

Common Sense Media 2022

Teens spend an average of 4.8 hours per day on social media.

Gallup Survey 2023

Since 2019 there have been 8.5 million cases of cyberbullying on school-administered Google Docs accounts.

Internet Safety Labs 2022

The problem is...

We’re asking our children to learn from the same devices they use for games, social media and other entertainment.

This causes their brain to default to multi-tasking.

The result? Distraction, slower progress, more mistakes and weaker memory.

“We want kids to be ~~focused~~ and ~~present~~ while they’re with their teachers.”

“This legislation helps promote an environment conducive to learning.”

Conducive to learning?

OECD International Review: “Students who use computers very frequently at school do a lot worse in most learning outcomes.”

MIT Meta-Analysis of 126 Research Studies: “Initiatives that expand access to computers do not improve K-12 grades and test scores. Online courses lower student academic achievement compared to in-person courses.”

NIH Study of 300,000 U.S. Students: “Even small daily amounts of use of digital devices in the classroom (i.e. 30 minutes) are negatively related to scores on a reading comprehension test.

Conducive to learning?

NLM Analysis of 100 pedagogies: “Expanding the use of Digital technology at the expense of other forms of instruction is likely to have detrimental effects on achievement.”

2018 NAEP Data: “Showed a highly negative correlation between devices and student learning.”

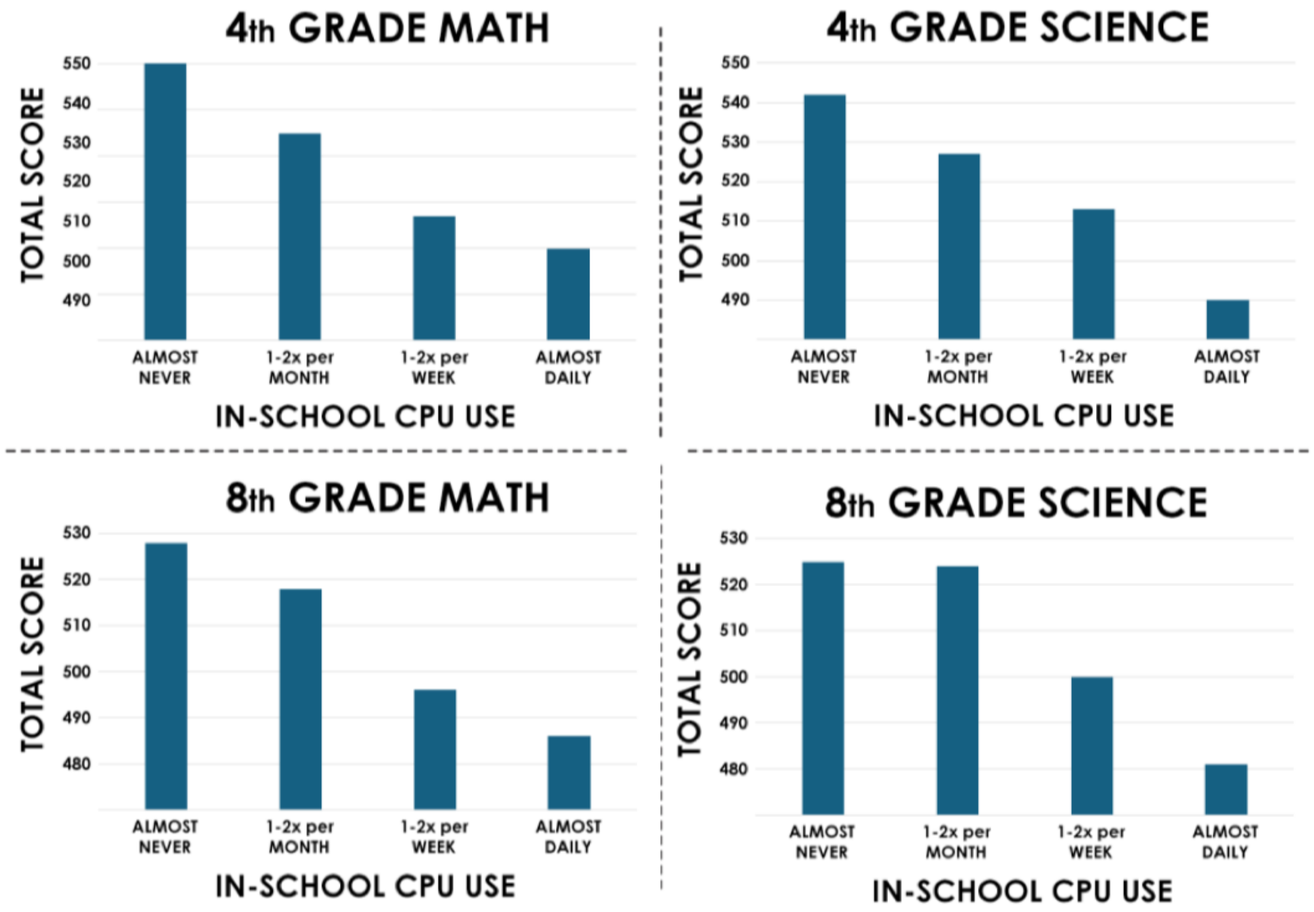
MIT Study: “Investing in air conditioning has a more beneficial impact on student learning than investing in a laptop for every student (ES = 0.21 vs 0.16).”

Over 50 years of research show that when screens enter the classroom, learning almost always declines.

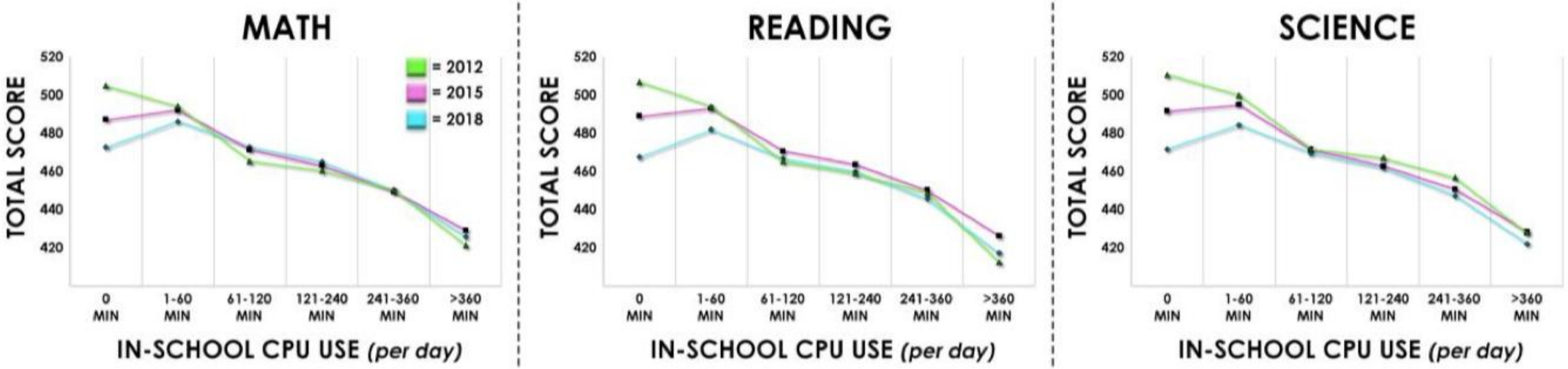
The Test Scores Tell the Tale

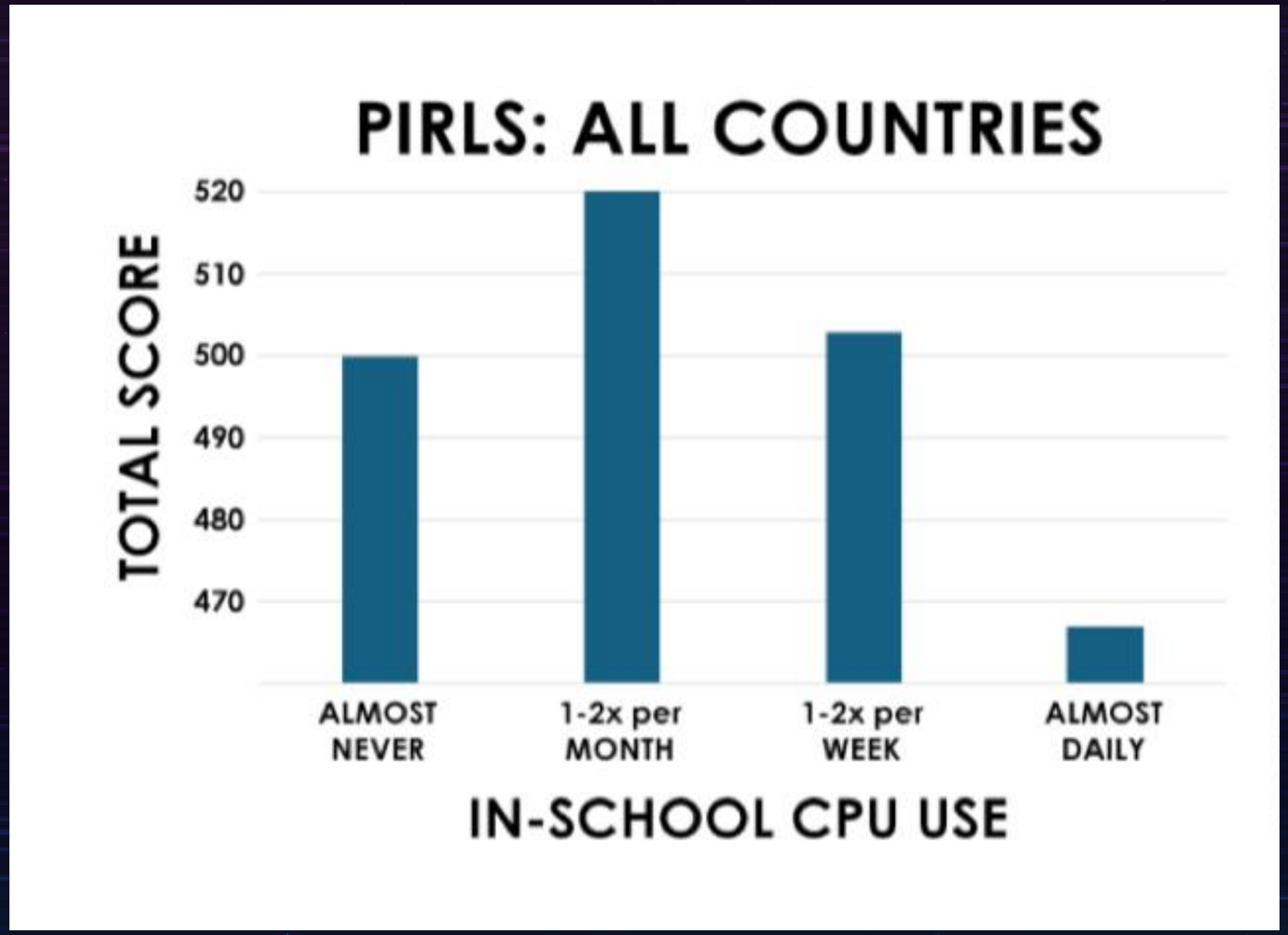
Over the past 2 decades, American students (and students globally) saw unprecedented **declines in academic outcomes**.

TIMSS: ALL COUNTRIES



PISA: ALL COUNTRIES




PIRLS: ALL COUNTRIES
TOTAL SCORE
520
510
500
490
480
470
ALMOST NEVER
1-2x per MONTH
1-2x per WEEK
ALMOST DAILY
IN-SCHOOL CPU USE

Student Performance Across Subjects

Changes in average scores and scores at selected percentiles, by subject and grade

Subject	Grade/Age	Current Year	Prior Year	Average score	Percentiles				
					10th	25th	50th	75th	90th
Mathematics	Grade 12	2024	2019	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	◆
Reading	Grade 12	2024	2019	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	◆
Science	Grade 8	2024	2019	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

SHOW THE RESULTS FOR OTHER SUBJECTS

↑ Significant increase compared to last assessment year

◆ No significant difference compared to last assessment year

↓ Significant decrease compared to last assessment year

*“Today's NAEP results confirm a devastating trend: **American students are testing at historic lows across all of K-12.** Despite spending billions annually on numerous K-12 programs, the achievement gap is widening, and more high school seniors are performing below the basic benchmark in math and reading than ever before.”*

Education Secretary Linda McMahon, September 2025

Across all major international assessments, more in-school computer use correlates with lower scores – typically a drop of 40 to 60+ points, equivalent to 1 to 2 letter grades.

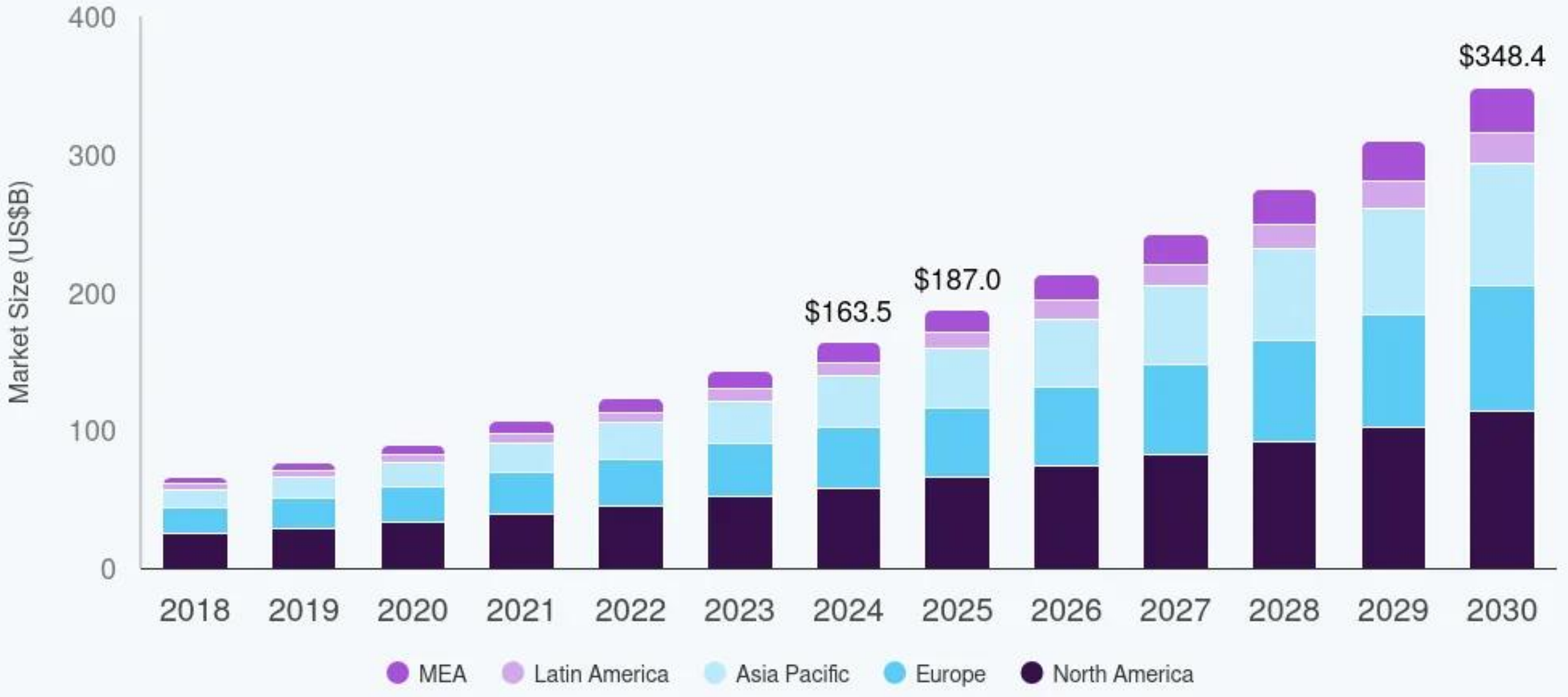
Students who use no computers at all consistently score highest across subjects, countries, and testing cycles.

Moving exams online lowered scores for all students.

How did we get here?

Education Technology Market

Size, by Region, 2018 - 2030



“We want kids to be focused and present while they’re with their teachers.”

“This legislation helps promote an environment conducive to learning.”

What do parents think?

What are parents worried about?

Inappropriate Content

Screentime

Data Privacy

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Parents want less screen time.

21% of students are using screens 2-4 hours per day at school.

14% are using screens at school over 4 hours per day.

67% of parents want their children to have less screen time at school.

78% of parents feel they do not have a say in school screen time.

Overuse of screens can result in:

- Disrupted sleep
- Decreased physical activity
- Increased obesity
- Propensity to myopia or near-sightedness
- Posture and neck problems
- Depression
- Suicidal thoughts
- Emotional disregulation
- ADHD prevalence
- Binge eating
- Brain effects: gray matter atrophy, reduced cortical thickness

Common Misconception:

The more stimulating the experience, the better the learning.

The Reality:

If an EdTech product looks and feels like entertainment or a game, that should be a red flag; there’s a good chance it’s prioritizing engagement over education and will not improve learning outcomes.

Parents want less screen time, introduced later.

When should children **begin** using tech in school? Parent responses:

- Only 2% support tech use in Pre-K
- Most said between 4th - 9th grade
- 6% say not until college

Parents are worried about safety and privacy.

47% of parents feel their children are unsafe when using tech at school.

90% of EdTech products surveil or are able to surveil children outside school hours and “deep into their private lives.” (HRW 2022)

On average, school districts use 2,591 EdTech products.

Parents are worried about safety and privacy.

The business model of EdTech mirrors that of Big Tech: extractive, attention-driven and data-reliant.

96% of EdTech apps share children’s data with 3rd parties.

New investigation (2023 – 2025): There are more EdTech apps that breach their own Data Privacy Agreements than do not.

Parents are worried about AI.

91% of parents say they do not want their kids using AI at school.

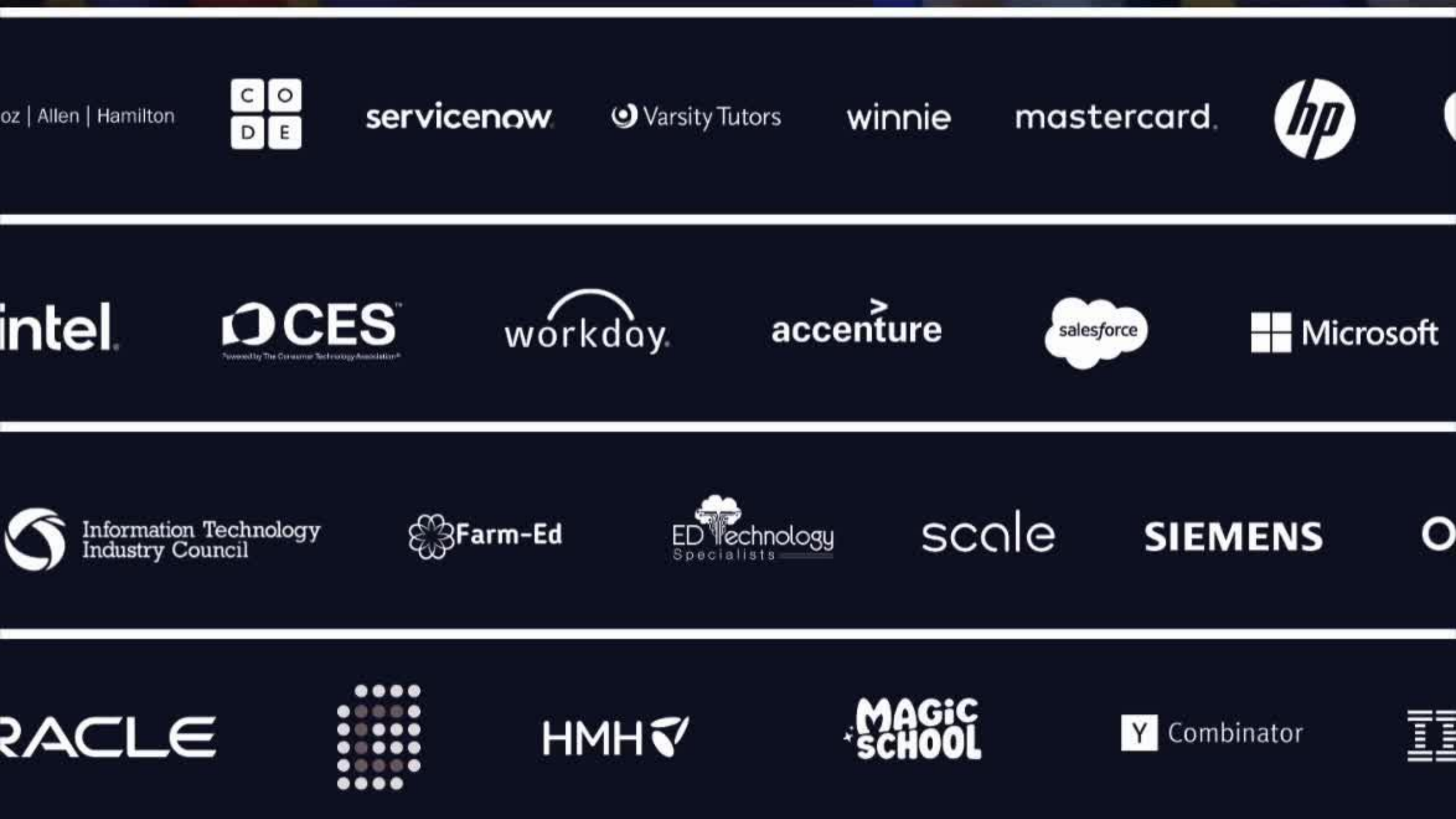
OUR PLEDGE TO AMERICA'S YOUTH

Investing in AI Education

_____ pledges to provide resources that foster early interest in AI technology, promote AI literacy and proficiency, and enable comprehensive AI training for parents and educators.

We pledge to invest in America's K-12 students, parents, and teachers by providing resources that cultivate the skills and knowledge necessary for an AI-ready workforce and the next generation of American innovators.

Specifically, over the next 4 years, we pledge to make available resources for youth, parents, and teachers through funding and grants, educational materials and curricula, technology and tools, teacher professional development programs, workforce development resources, and/or technical expertise and mentorship.


oz | Allen | Hamilton
CODE
servicenow
Varsity Tutors
winnie
mastercard.
hp
intel.
CES
Powered by The Consumer Technology Association
workday.
accenture
salesforce
Microsoft
Information Technology Industry Council
Farm-Ed
ED Technology Specialists
scale
SIEMENS
RACLE
HMH
MAGIC SCHOOL
Y Combinator

We are in grave danger of repeating the same mistakes today with “AI Ed,” only at much greater speed.

DAILY COVER

These AI Tutors For Kids Gave Fentanyl Recipes And Dangerous Diet Advice

Parents of 16-year-old sue OpenAI, claiming ChatGPT advised on teen's suicide

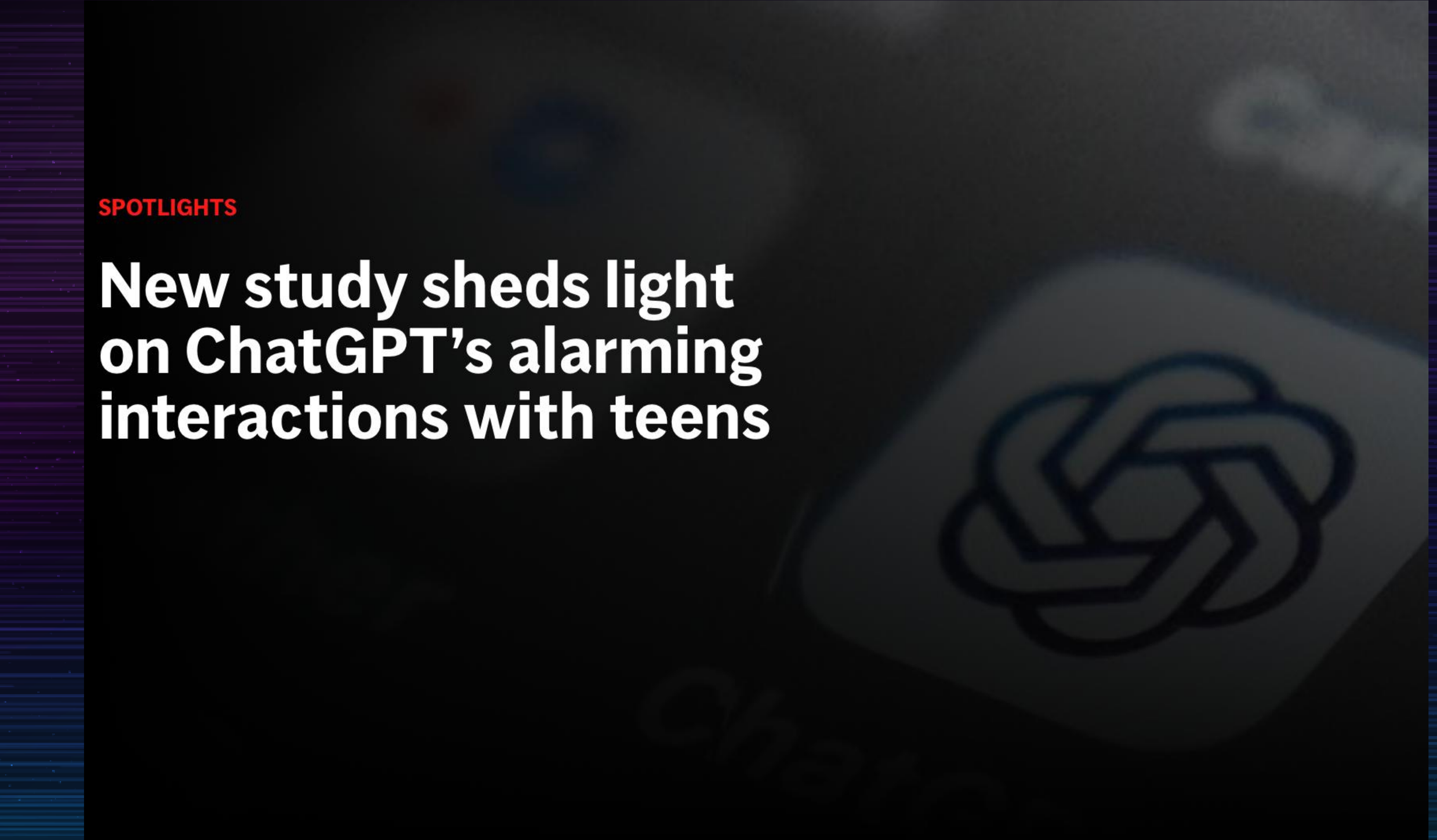
By Clare Duffy CNN
Wednesday, August 27, 2025

AI technologies such as ChatGPT may promote learners' dependence on technology and potentially trigger “metacognitive laziness”.

BJET 2024

SPOTLIGHTS

New study sheds light on ChatGPT's alarming interactions with teens



But don't we need to prepare our kids for an AI future?

“Teach someone how to use a tool, and they’ll be able to use that tool. Teach someone how to think, and they’ll be able to use any tool.”

Neuroscientist Jared Cooney-Horvath

AI is only as good as the level of knowledge a user brings to it.

“The purpose of education is to prepare kids for an ever-changing world - to build skills they can carry into new and unpredictable situations.

Digital learning flattens that experience, making knowledge harder to recall and apply beyond the device.

Our children need real-world learning that transfers. If they’re never taught to think beyond the screen, they’ll forever remain trapped inside of it.”

So how do we move forward?

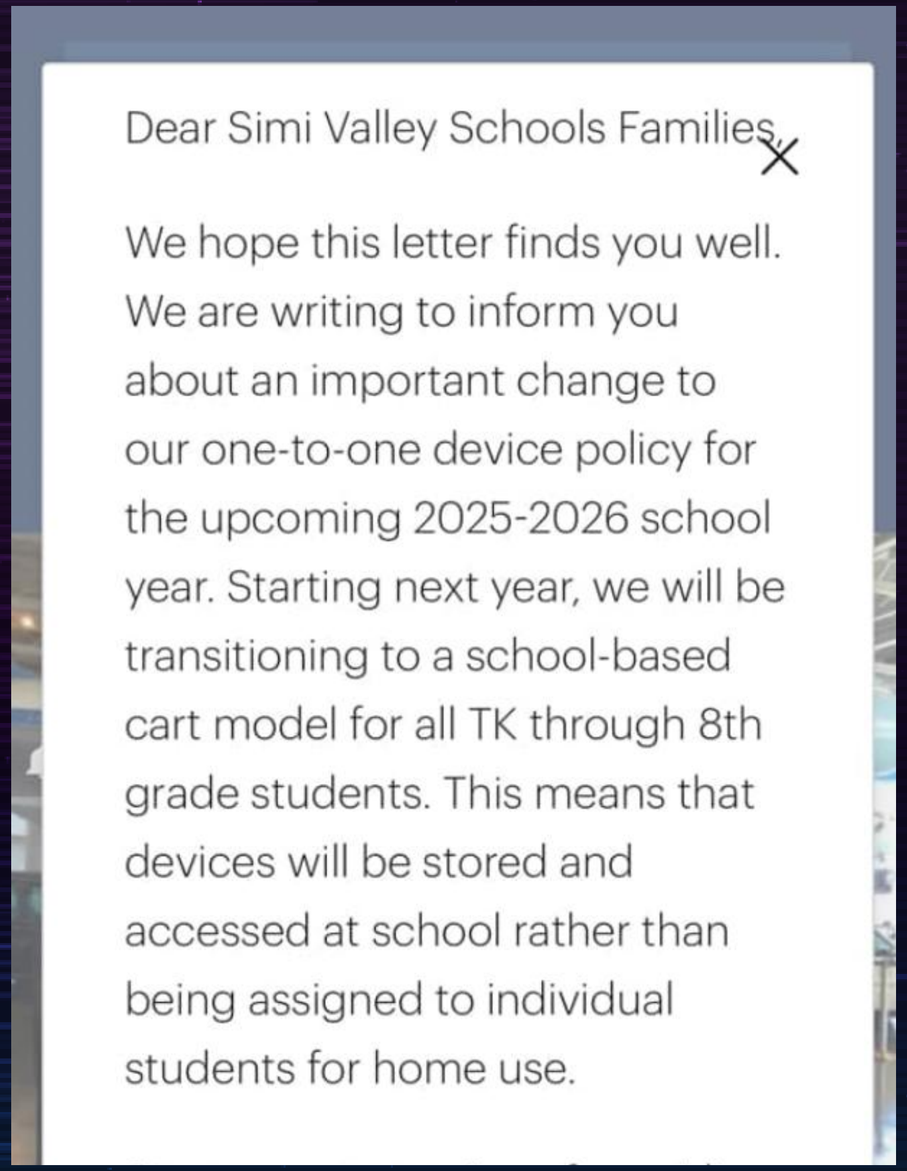
We don’t have to be anti-tech,
but we should be pro-learning.

Limit screen time.

Particularly for young students.
Clearly articulate pedagogical values and goals a tech platform seeks to achieve.
Use these criterion as a standard to evaluate any digital platform considered for adoption.

Get rid of 1:1.

Many districts are getting rid of 1:1.
Going back to computer carts or a computer lab model.



- Overwhelming cost to replace devices: The financial burden of replacing damaged or lost devices has become unsustainable. During the 2024-2025 school year, the SVUSD has spent more than $1 million to replace broken student devices. Additionally, we have spent nearly $120,000 on screen replacements for the laptops.

Give parents an option to opt-out.

UPDATED Notice Regarding Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

The Northampton Public Schools utilizes several computer software applications and web-based services as part of our educational services provided by school-based staff.

While these tools are reviewed to ensure that they provide students with effective tools for learning, the applications and services are not operated by the district but by 3rd parties.

For students to be able to use these programs and services, certain personal identifying information (most commonly, the student's first and last name and e-mail address) must be provided to the 3rd party web site or application operator.

Under the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), the 3rd party websites or application operators must provide parent/guardian notification and obtain consent before collecting personal information from children under the age of 13. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), who oversees COPPA compliance, also permits school districts to consent to the collection of personal information on behalf of its students thus eliminating the need for individual parents/guardians to consent directly to individual website/application providers.

However, parents whose children are protected by COPPA have the right to opt-out of Educational Technology by directly notifying their school in writing. This must be done annually. When a parent opts-out of the use of any Educational Technology for their child, the school/classroom teacher will provide accommodations through alternative, offline assignments and materials so that the child can continue their learning.

Align tech use with children’s well-being.

Only use technology when it offers clear, evidence-based instructional advantages.

Burke Schools prepare to pilot low-tech teaching in 2025–26

By SANDRA WILKERSON QUEEN sandra@thepaper.media Jul 26, 2025

WHEREAS, while digital tools have an appropriate place in modern education, their use must be balanced with proven traditional methods to best support student achievement and well-being;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Burke County Board of Education affirms its support for pen-and paper instruction as the primary mode of learning in classrooms, particularly for note-taking, reading comprehension, writing, and assessments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Burke County School District will prioritize investments in physical learning materials, including printed textbooks, notebooks, and writing supplies, and will provide professional development to educators on maximizing the effectiveness of traditional instruction methods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board encourages the responsible and limited use of digital devices, reserving screen time for activities where technology offers clear, evidence-based instructional advantages.

Granville County Public Schools
Tech Free Playbook for Educators

Granville County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As we implement **Tech-Free Tuesdays and Thursdays**, this guidebook will support you in planning lessons that build student stamina, spark authentic discourse, and reduce screen fatigue. Inside, you'll find sample activities, classroom routines, and planning tools tailored for all grade levels and content areas.

In 2009, Sweden chose to replace books with computers. 15 years later, it allocates 104 million euros to reverse course

Sweden is investing €104 million to bring back printed textbooks, highlighting growing concerns over digital learning's toll on student focus and skills. Discover how this bold move could reshape education everywhere.

Schools are increasingly using iPads and other tablets for use in lessons and for homework

FIFE COUNCIL

Bring back pen and paper! Calls to scrap ‘screen-based homework’

The Tories are proposing that children be allowed to opt out of screen-based learning amid fears devices are being used too much in schools

Madrid schools limit tech use for half a million students

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Thank you!

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