

By: Parker, Dutton, Ordaz Perez, Buckley,  
Price

H.B. No. 3489

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3489:

By: Dutton

C.S.H.B. No. 3489

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to development of guidelines for the use of digital  
3 devices in public schools and a school district or open-enrollment  
4 charter school policy for the effective integration of those  
5 devices.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is  
8 amended by adding Section 38.0231 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 38.0231. GUIDELINES FOR USE OF DIGITAL DEVICES. (a)  
10 The agency, in consultation with the Health and Human Services  
11 Commission, shall develop and distribute model health and safety  
12 guidelines that school districts and open-enrollment charter  
13 schools may use to determine best practices for the effective  
14 integration of digital devices in public schools. The guidelines  
15 must:

16 (1) be based on evidence-based studies and practices;

17 (2) consider the needs of students with intellectual  
18 or physical disabilities;

19 (3) consider the potential costs of implementation of  
20 the guidelines and affordable ways to reduce the hazards associated  
21 with the extended use of digital devices; and

22 (4) address:

23 (A) digital device use for varying age ranges and  
24 developmental levels;

1                   (B) the amount of time a student spends using  
2 digital devices in the classroom;

3                   (C) appropriate frequency for breaks from the use  
4 of digital devices;

5                   (D) physical positioning of digital devices in  
6 the classroom;

7                   (E) the use of digital devices to complete  
8 homework assignments;

9                   (F) recommended total daily screen time usage for  
10 students;

11                   (G) recommended practices or software to block  
12 access to inappropriate content; and

13                   (H) recommended teacher training regarding  
14 digital device use in the classroom to ensure implementation of the  
15 best practices.

16           (b) The school board of each school district or the  
17 governing body of each open-enrollment charter school shall adopt a  
18 policy for the effective integration of digital devices in the  
19 district or school. In adopting the policy, the school board or the  
20 governing body may decide whether to adopt the guidelines developed  
21 under Subsection (a) for use in the district or school.

22           (c) Each school district or open-enrollment charter school  
23 that adopts the guidelines developed under Subsection (a) may  
24 implement the guidelines in a manner that best meets the district's  
25 or charter school's individual needs and the individual needs of  
26 students in the district or school, including students with  
27 intellectual or physical disabilities.

1        (d) If a school district or open-enrollment charter school  
2 adopts the guidelines developed under Subsection (a), the district  
3 or charter school shall post the guidelines publicly on the  
4 district's or charter school's Internet website.

5        SECTION 2. The Texas Education Agency shall develop and  
6 distribute the guidelines for the use of digital devices required  
7 under Section 38.0231, Education Code, as added by this Act, for use  
8 beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

9        SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.