

1-1 By: Parker, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Taylor) H.B. No. 3489
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 12, 2021;
 1-3 May 13, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Education; May 19, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 19, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Taylor	X			
1-8 Lucio	X			
1-9 Bettencourt	X			
1-10 Hall	X			
1-11 Hughes	X			
1-12 Menéndez	X			
1-13 Paxton	X			
1-14 Perry	X			
1-15 Powell	X			
1-16 Schwertner	X			
1-17 West	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to development of guidelines for the use of digital
 1-22 devices in public schools and a school district or open-enrollment
 1-23 charter school policy for the effective integration of those
 1-24 devices.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is
 1-27 amended by adding Section 38.0231 to read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 38.0231. GUIDELINES FOR USE OF DIGITAL DEVICES. (a)
 1-29 The agency, in consultation with the Health and Human Services
 1-30 Commission, shall develop and distribute model health and safety
 1-31 guidelines that school districts and open-enrollment charter
 1-32 schools may use to determine best practices for the effective
 1-33 integration of digital devices in public schools. The guidelines
 1-34 must:

1-35 (1) be based on evidence-based studies and practices;

1-36 (2) consider the needs of students with intellectual
 1-37 or physical disabilities;

1-38 (3) consider the potential costs of implementation of
 1-39 the guidelines and affordable ways to reduce the hazards associated
 1-40 with the extended use of digital devices; and

1-41 (4) address:

1-42 (A) digital device use for varying age ranges and
 1-43 developmental levels;

1-44 (B) the amount of time a student spends using
 1-45 digital devices in the classroom;

1-46 (C) appropriate frequency for breaks from the use
 1-47 of digital devices;

1-48 (D) physical positioning of digital devices in
 1-49 the classroom;

1-50 (E) the use of digital devices to complete
 1-51 homework assignments;

1-52 (F) recommended total daily screen time usage for
 1-53 students;

1-54 (G) recommended practices or software to block
 1-55 access to inappropriate content; and

1-56 (H) recommended teacher training regarding
 1-57 digital device use in the classroom to ensure implementation of the
 1-58 best practices.

1-59 (b) The school board of each school district or the
 1-60 governing body of each open-enrollment charter school shall adopt a
 1-61 policy for the effective integration of digital devices in the

2-1 district or school. In adopting the policy, the school board or the
2-2 governing body may decide whether to adopt the guidelines developed
2-3 under Subsection (a) for use in the district or school.

2-4 (c) Each school district or open-enrollment charter school
2-5 that adopts the guidelines developed under Subsection (a) may
2-6 implement the guidelines in a manner that best meets the district's
2-7 or charter school's individual needs and the individual needs of
2-8 students in the district or school, including students with
2-9 intellectual or physical disabilities.

2-10 (d) If a school district or open-enrollment charter school
2-11 adopts the guidelines developed under Subsection (a), the district
2-12 or charter school shall post the guidelines publicly on the
2-13 district's or charter school's Internet website.

2-14 SECTION 2. The Texas Education Agency shall develop and
2-15 distribute the guidelines for the use of digital devices required
2-16 under Section 38.0231, Education Code, as added by this Act, for use
2-17 beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

2-18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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