

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

H.P. 1376 - L.D. 2052

**Resolve, to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study Safeguards
Related to Its Use**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this resolve directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to develop a survey to gather and analyze information from school administrative units, schools in the unorganized territory and private schools approved for the receipt of public funds under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 117, subchapter 2 that enroll 60% or more publicly funded students regarding the use of technology in the classroom, safety policies and procedures in place and the means employed to ensure compliance with those policies and procedures and to gather information on current guidance about best practices for safe instructional technology use for children from state and national experts; and

Whereas, the survey and analysis must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the work may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Maine Education Policy Research Institute study. Resolved: That the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall develop a survey as described under section 2 to gather and analyze information from school administrative units, schools in the unorganized territory and private schools approved for the receipt of public funds under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 117, subchapter 2 that enroll 60% or more publicly funded students regarding the use of technology in the classroom, safety policies and procedures in place and the means employed to ensure compliance with those policies and procedures. In developing the survey, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute may consult with the Department of Education, the Maine School Management Association, the Maine Principals' Association, the Maine Education Association, the

Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine and other stakeholders as appropriate.

Sec. 2. Survey requirements. Resolved: That the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall survey educators from all 16 counties in the State on the use of technology in the classroom. The survey parameters must include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The amount of average instruction time per grade level spent on school-issued technology devices;
2. The safeguards undertaken before introducing new school-issued technology products, such as enabling screen time settings, blocking access to social media applications and websites and configuring default privacy settings to the highest level;
3. The policies regarding allowed use or prohibition of gamification, leader boards, push notification alerts, advertising, geolocation, generative and conversational artificial intelligence, use of free online tools and use of unlicensed educational websites or online tools that are not certified as safe for schools under the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998;
4. The compliance measures to ensure that school policies under subsection 3 are followed;
5. The timeline for school review of education technology products;
6. Adherence to the provisions of the Student Information Privacy Act;
7. The policies in place for prohibiting artificial intelligence use in grading, teacher evaluations and any other education or administrative areas;
8. Known instances of students bypassing Internet restrictions on school-issued technology devices; and
9. Suggestions for state policies and guidance to assist and support local action and policy development regarding the use of technology in schools.

Sec. 3. Guidance. Resolved: That the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall gather information on current guidance about best practices for safe instructional technology use for children from state and national experts. The guidance must include, but is not limited to, a review of neuropsychological and developmental studies, comparative academic performance data and behavioral and environmental observations that provide insight on the impact of digital consumption on cognitive development. The institute shall share this guidance with its steering committee to facilitate distribution to its stakeholders.

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That, by December 1, 2026, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall submit a report based on the survey and research under sections 1 to 3, including recommendations to the Department of Education and suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 5. Funding. Resolved: That funding for the requirements of this resolve must be incorporated into the Maine Education Policy Research Institute's fiscal year 2026-27 cooperative project agreement with the Legislature.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.