

Megan Bartholomew
Scarborough, Scarborough Alliance for Thoughtful Tech
LD 2052

Dear Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of LD 2052.

Educational technology is currently a black box for parents in my district. I am deeply concerned about both the amount of time my children spend on screens during the school day and the quality and effectiveness of that screen use.

As part of the Scarborough Alliance for Thoughtful Technology, we work to educate families and advocate for reduced screen use in schools. When we have raised concerns, district administrators have told us that because educational technology is a rapidly shifting field, they cannot keep track of everything. In instances where students have been granted access to inappropriate content, these issues have been dismissed with the explanation that “nothing will ever be perfect.”

We have repeatedly asked the district to track and monitor actual student screen time by grade level. Instead, we have been given estimates. The problem with estimates is that they do not reflect reality—they reflect intention or ideal practice. Parents deserve accurate, concrete information about how instructional time is actually being spent.

This situation is not unique to Scarborough. I am asking the state to help parents across Maine gain transparency. We should be better informed about what our children are doing during the school day.

My concern is that many administrators still operate under the assumption that educational technology is inherently beneficial. Many of us parents once believed this as well. However, as more research and reporting emerges, it has become clear that this assumption deserves serious reexamination.

We cannot improve what we do not measure. LD 2052 is a necessary first step toward understanding current practices and making informed, research-based decisions for our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Megan Bartholomew, parent of 2 school aged children, Scarborough, ME