

## HB584 INTRODUCED



1 HB584  
2 TBGJN55-1  
3 By Representatives , Givens, Lamb, Gidley, Holk-Jones,  
4 Faulkner, Baker, Blackshear, Collins, DuBose, Smith, Colvin,  
5 Paschal, Hulsey, Paramore, Robbins  
6 RFD: Education Policy  
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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require the State Board of Education to adopt standards for the use of screen-based instruction in kindergarten through fifth grade.

This bill would limit screen-based instruction to certain developmentally-appropriate uses, with exceptions.

This bill would establish the Elementary Instructional Technology Task Force within the State Department of Education to provide recommendations to the board relating to screen-based instruction, which the board must include in its standards.

This bill would require the task force to annually review its recommendations.

This bill would provide for the appointment of members to the task force.

This bill would require the board to submit an annual progress report to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the use of screen-based instruction in elementary schools.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED



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AN ACT

Relating to screen-based instruction; to require the State Board of Education to establish standards for screen-based instruction in kindergarten through fifth grade; to create the Elementary Instructional Technology Task Force within the State Department of Education; to require the standards to reflect the recommendations of the task force; and to provide certain exceptions from any prohibitions on screen-use.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(1) Early elementary years are critical for children's brain development, literacy acquisition, attention formation, and executive function.

(2) Research demonstrates that children learn foundation skills most effectively through direct instruction, handwriting, physical texts, manipulatives, and sustained interaction with teachers and peers.

(3) Educational technology is most effective when used intentionally and in moderation and should not displace evidence-based instructional practices.

(4) It is in the best interest of Alabama's children to ensure that screen-based instruction is developmentally appropriate and grounded in current research.

(5) The intent of this act is to promote balanced instructional practices in kindergarten through fifth grade



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57 while preserving local flexibility and elevating educator  
58 expertise.

59 (6) This act shall be read in pari materia with The  
60 Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Act, Act 2026-169,  
61 2026 Regular Session.

62 Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following  
63 terms have the following meanings:

64 (1) BOARD. The State Board of Education.

65 (2) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Education.

66 (3) SCREEN-BASED INSTRUCTION. The individual use of an  
67 electronic device, including, but not limited to, a laptop,  
68 Chromebook, or tablet, by a student during instructional time.

69 Section 3. (a) The board shall adopt standards for  
70 screen-based instruction for kindergarten through fifth grade.  
71 The standards shall include specific guidance on appropriate  
72 screen-based instruction for each grade and shall reflect, but  
73 not be limited to, the following requirements:

74 (1) The use of screen-based instruction as  
75 developmentally appropriate and supported by research.

76 (2) The use of screen-based instruction only as a  
77 supplementary tool for instruction in core academic subjects  
78 and may not serve as the primary mode of instruction.

79 (3) Screen-based instruction may not replace explicit  
80 phonics instruction, handwriting, reading of physical texts,  
81 manipulative-based mathematics instruction, or teacher-led  
82 discussion.

83 (4) Continuous, self-paced digital coursework may not  
84 be used as a substitute for teacher-directed instruction.



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85 (5) The scheduling of regular vision breaks after 20  
86 minutes of screen-based instruction, and the encouragement of  
87 off-screen play and movement between activities.

88 (6) Total screen-based instruction, including work done  
89 in the classroom and assigned to be completed at home, may not  
90 routinely exceed two hours per day, unless there is clear  
91 educational value and the screen time is structured and  
92 facilitated by adults.

93 (7) Any recommendations of the Elementary Instructional  
94 Technology Task Force, pursuant to Section 4, including any  
95 revised recommendations following the task force's annual  
96 review.

97 (8) The exceptions provided in Section 5.

98 (b) Each local board of education shall adopt policies  
99 consistent with the board's standards adopted pursuant to  
100 subsection (a).

101 (c) The board shall annually prepare a progress report  
102 relating to screen-based instruction in kindergarten through  
103 fifth grade. The report shall include, but not be limited to,  
104 the use of screen-based instruction in kindergarten through  
105 fifth grade, any revisions to the screen-based instruction  
106 standards, and the effect of the screen-based instruction  
107 standards on students, such as the average daily screen time  
108 use per student. The board shall provide a copy of the  
109 progress report for the preceding academic year to the  
110 Governor and the Legislature no later than October 1 of each  
111 year.

112 (d) The department shall oversee compliance with this



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113 act and may adopt rules necessary to enforce compliance.

114 Section 4. (a) (1) The Elementary Instructional  
115 Technology Task Force is created within the department. The  
116 membership of the task force shall be composed of the  
117 following:

118 a. Each of the following, appointed by the Governor:

- 119 1. Two elementary school classroom teachers.
- 120 2. One parent of a public elementary school student.
- 121 3. One pediatric ophthalmologist or vision health  
122 specialist.

123 b. Two nationally recognized experts in child  
124 development, pediatric digital media research, or cognitive  
125 science, one of whom shall be appointed by the President Pro  
126 Tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by  
127 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

128 c. Two early literacy or early childhood development  
129 experts, one of whom shall be appointed by the President Pro  
130 Tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by  
131 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

132 d. One representative of the Alabama Department of  
133 Education.

134 e. Each of the following, appointed by the State  
135 Superintendent of Education:

- 136 1. One principal of a public elementary school.
- 137 2. One local superintendent of education.
- 138 3. One district instructional technology director.

139 (2) The appointing authorities shall assure the task  
140 force membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender,



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141 geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

142 (b) The task force shall provide recommendations to the  
143 board on the screen-based instruction standards adopted  
144 pursuant to Section 3. The duties of the task force are as  
145 follows:

146 (1) Review up-to-date peer-reviewed research on screen  
147 exposure and learning.

148 (2) Establish developmentally-appropriate grade-band  
149 recommendations for screen-based instruction.

150 (3) Identify best practices to ensure technology  
151 enhances rather than replaces direct instruction.

152 (4) Issue written recommendations to the State Board of  
153 Education no later than October 1, 2027.

154 (5) Annually review its prior recommendations and, as  
155 necessary, provide updated recommendations to the State Board  
156 of Education for the next academic school year.

157 (c) The State Superintendent of Education and the State  
158 Board of Education shall review any recommendations from the  
159 task force. The board shall include the recommendations of the  
160 task force in the standards created pursuant to Section 3.

161 Section 5. This act does not apply to any of the  
162 following:

163 (1) Assistive technology required under an  
164 Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

165 (2) State or federally required assessments.

166 (3) A teacher's use of technology for instructional  
167 displays or presentations.

168 (4) Temporary emergency remote instruction.



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169                   (5) Any computer science course or instruction in  
170 computer science pursuant to Section 16-46B-2, Code of Alabama  
171 1975.

172                   Section 6. This act shall become effective on October  
173 1, 2026.