Important Update: Enhancing Student Digital Safety and Introducing *Securly Home*

Dear Region 20 Families,

I have recently convened a Technology Advisory Committee composed of parents, teachers, school leaders, and district staff. The group held its first meeting this month, and we will continue our work this fall as we develop recommendations to help Region 20 address the many challenges and opportunities created by rapidly evolving technology.

One concern raised by families is screen time and the difficulty some parents have managing their child's use of school-issued iPads at home. Families have also shared that they would like greater visibility into how these devices are being used outside of school hours. These concerns are further complicated by our long-standing practice of allowing secondary students to retain their district-issued iPads over the summer.

As technology continues to evolve, Region 20 remains committed to providing students with a digital learning environment that is innovative, secure, and aligned with the highest standards of student data privacy.

To support this commitment, we are expanding our use of *Securly*, the district's web-filtering and student safety platform. In the coming days, we will be rolling out two new tools designed to strengthen student protection and enhance our partnership with families: *Securly Home* and *Securly AI.*

Securly Home App
Soon, the primary PowerSchool contact for each student will receive an email invitation to create a *Securly* parent account. This marks the launch of the *Securly Home* app, which will provide families with increased visibility into their child's online activity on district-managed devices while at home.

Through the app, parents and guardians will be able to view web activity, pause internet access on the school device during non-school hours, and customize certain filtering settings to meet their family's needs. Please watch for an automated welcome email from *Securly* with instructions for setting up your account.

Securly AI
The district is also implementing *Securly AI*, a private, K–12-filtered AI assistant. When students attempt to access unapproved public AI chatbots on district-issued devices, they will be automatically redirected to *Securly AI.* This ensures students can learn to use AI tools safely, without exposing their personal data or interacting with unfiltered public models.

To further safeguard our network and uphold strict student data privacy standards, Region 20 is streamlining the use of artificial intelligence districtwide. Access to major public AI tools and chatbots on the district network will be limited, with *Google Gemini* serving as the only approved and accessible public AI tool. As the district learns more and adopts new policies and regulations, these decisions will be subject to change.

Approved Apps and Data Privacy
As part of our ongoing software compliance audits, we are reinforcing our commitment to student data privacy by maintaining a strict "Approved Apps" list. Students will only be permitted to use their RSD20 credentials to sign into applications that have been fully vetted and approved by the district.

We are excited about these enhancements and how they will help us foster safer, more responsible digital citizenship among our students. We hope the introduction of the *Securly Home* app will be a meaningful step in partnering with families to maximize the benefits of technology while setting healthy limits and supporting the whole child.

If you have any questions about these updates, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Villar, Ph.D.
Superintendent