Board of Education
Roman "Tiger" Abeyta, President
Kate Noble, Vice-President
Carmen Gonzales, Secretary
Sarah Boses, Member
Lynn Gardner Heffron, Member

Resolution 2025/2026-11
Promoting Balanced and Developmentally Appropriate Digital Engagement for Students

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WHEREAS, the Board of Education, seeks to create learning environments that raise expectations and promote high academic performance for every student through rigorous instruction, effective use of technology, and attention to the holistic needs of students; and

WHEREAS, research and national health organizations affirm that meaningful human connection, balanced technology use, and responsible digital citizenship are essential to student engagement, cognitive development, mental health, and long-term academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, the community's support of the Education Technology Note has enabled significant investments in technology that promote equity, innovation, and personalized learning, while underscoring the need for safe, secure, and developmentally appropriate practices; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly increased the use of technology in education, and Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS) is committed to providing intentional guidance and resources to support student wellness, effective teaching, and academic success; and

WHEREAS, SFPS recognizes that while technology can enhance instruction and improve student outcomes, excessive or misaligned screen time may negatively impact attention, sleep, and social-emotional well-being, and therefore prioritizes balanced, age-appropriate digital learning across all instructional models;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SFPS BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITS TO PROMOTING HEALTHY AND BALANCED DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH DIRECTING THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING:

1) Develop a clear Digital Engagement Framework that establishes district-wide, developmentally aligned recommendations for instructional technology use; as well as supportive engagement measures for families, and digital best practices by grade level, all with the goal of balancing educational value with student wellness.
2) Use instructional technology tools, digital platforms, and professional development for staff to support diverse learners to promote active, purposeful engagement, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.
3) Ensure student and staff voice and feedback are incorporated into the evaluation of digital learning experiences, particularly around well-being, focus, and access to alternatives.
4) Explore grade-level-appropriate "Tech-Free Zones" or "Screen-Free Periods" during the school day to foster interpersonal connection and physical activity at SFPS schools.

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5) Promote schools, and activating, engaging initiatives at schools, that emphasize strong, non-screen-based learning opportunities, especially in grades PreK-8, and that integrate outdoor/physical activity during the instructional day.
6) Facilitate an annual review of screen-time usage trends, by grade level and instructional purpose, and use findings to refine implementation of the Digital Engagement Framework, while also promoting student leadership and participation in raising awareness of digital wellness.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SANTA FE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: Roman "Tiger Abeyta, Board President

Attested by: Kate Noble, Board Vice President