

Regular Board Meeting - Public Comment (Online Submissions)

Date: August 20, 2026

	First Name (Optional)	Last Name (Optional)	Is this comment related to an item on the agenda?	Agenda Item
1	Community Member	Undisclosed	Yes	13.02 Educational Technology Program Presentation

Please write your comment:

Parents and community members are asking you, members of the school board, to hold Dr. Elsasser and the Educational Technology Leadership Team accountable for communicating clearly with the community and allowing public input before any guidelines are finalized. The community needs to be allowed to provide input and have a meaningful discussion with the ETLT before anything is finalized. We have been told that there will be opportunity for engagement in the fall, and Board members can apply pressure to help make this happen. The Educational Technology Leadership Team needs to explain to the community the reasons behind their decisions, this transparency is essential. And to allow for feedback to help create meaningful guidelines. Thank you for your help.

Dr. Elsasser has not responded to multiple Public Records Requests and is creating a more significant problem through his non-compliance. As board members, you have influence here as well. Elections are fast approaching and the community is looking for action and a willingness to collaborate in meaningful ways. There are candidates running who are interested as well. Thank you for your time.

	First Name (Optional)	Last Name (Optional)	Is this comment related to an item on the agenda?	Agenda Item
2	Undisclosed	Undisclosed	Yes	13.02 Educational Technology Program Presentation

Please write your comment:

To Superintendent Elsasser and Board of Education members:

I am writing to you as a concerned parent of a third grade elementary student in the Claremont Unified School District. It has never been clearer that the use of iPads and technology are detrimental to childhood development and well-being. It is shocking that CUSD has not taken the necessary steps to limit iPad use within the district, while neighboring districts have done so.

Prior to this school year, I have spoken to my child's teachers, including the then-Principal of the school. It was clear to me that this needed to be a change coming from the district. Our children are required to use up their 45 minute allotments for each Reading and Math on iReady, an equivalent of an hour and thirty in addition to free time spent on other EdTech programs such as REFLEX Math and EPIC. Many parents in the district restrict iPad/tech use to a couple of hours in each weekend. Our children should not be picking up habitual usage of dopamine-inducing apps in school. Our children should not be experimental subjects to applications such as iReady, which has already been proven to lack efficacy in improved scores.

As parents within the district, we are hoping for a positive change towards using less technology for the better development of our children. We want our teachers to do the teaching, not the apps. Parents should also have the option to opt out completely of technology use, especially if it shows that the child is a strong learner without it. Thank you very much.

	First Name (Optional)	Last Name (Optional)	Is this comment related to an agenda?	Agenda Item
3	Undisclosed	Undisclosed	Yes	Educational Technology Program

Please write your comment:

To Superintendent Elsasser and School Board Members,

I am writing to you as a concerned parent of a child in the Claremont School District. Specifically, about how much technology is being used in elementary school.

I understand that technology can be helpful and has a place in the classroom. But I am concerned that our elementary aged kids are spending time on iPads instead of learning directly from their teachers, reading books, writing, doing hands-on activities, and interacting with other kids.

There is plenty of research showing that too much screen time can affect children's attention, learning, sleep, physical activity, and social development. I know technology itself is not necessarily useless, but I think there needs to be a better approach, especially for younger children.

I am particularly concerned about i-Ready. My understanding is that students use it for the Diagnostic, online lessons, practice, and other activities. I would like to request that my son be allowed to opt out of i-Ready completely.

If we choose to opt out, I would like him to be given a reasonable alternative, such as teacher-led work, reading, writing, or hands-on activities, rather than being moved to another ipad program.

I also have concerns about how much independent research actually supports i-Ready use. A 2021 doctoral study looking at i-Ready in elementary schools found that independent research on the program was limited and that the results were mixed. The study did not show that spending more time on i-Ready necessarily led to better reading results.

As a parent, I would like to have a say in how much screen-based learning my child is doing at school. I would also like to know how much time students are expected to spend on i-Ready and other technology during the school day.

I would appreciate it if the district would consider:

- Giving parents the choice to opt out of i-Ready and other ipad apps..
- Providing non-screen alternatives for students who opt out.
- Being more transparent about how much time students spend on i-Ready and other technology.
- Sharing the research the district uses when deciding to use programs like i-Ready.

I want to be clear that I am not against technology. I just don't think young children should have to spend time during their school day learning from a screen. I believe there should be an option.

I would appreciate a response letting me know if my son can opt out of i-Ready and what alternative would be provided to him.

Sincerely,
School: Chaparral Elementary