

Subject Limiting individual-use screens in preschool and kindergarten

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Summary

The bill prohibits children in publicly funded preschools or kindergartens from using an individual-use screen, such as a tablet or smartphone, without engagement from a teacher or other student. Children who have an individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family service plan are not subject to the prohibition on individual-use screen time.

The bill requires the Department of Education to contract for a statewide educational campaign to educate parents on the effects of screen use on children. The campaign informs parents about: (1) guidelines for screen use from the World Health Organization and the American Academy of Pediatrics; (2) research on screen use and its effects on early childhood brain development; (3) the potential risks of excessive screen time on mental and physical development; and (4) the effects of parental overuse of screens when interacting with children under age five.

The bill provides a blank appropriation for fiscal year 2022 to the commissioner of education for the campaign. The contractor for the campaign is required to provide a private match of \$1 for every \$1 received.