

Subject Limiting individual-use screens in preschool and kindergarten

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Summary

The bill establishes a new section of statute that 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.

The bill requires the Department of Education to give out a contract for the creation and implementation of a statewide educational campaign on the effects of screen use on children. The campaign must inform parents about: (1) guidelines for screen use for children ages zero to five from the World Health Organization and from 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 an appropriation in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner of education for the campaign. The amount of the appropriation is not specified. The contractor for the campaign is required to provide a private match of \$1 for every \$1 received.