



COMMUNITY EDUCATION DISTRICT COUNCIL 30

28-11 Queens Plaza North, Room 512
Long Island City, NY 11101
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CEC30.org
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Resolution 209

Resolution to Establish Developmentally Appropriate Screen Time Limits in New York City Public Schools

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WHEREAS, parents in District 30 and across New York City have expressed concerns at Community Education Council (CEC) meetings and Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) meetings about the increasing role of individual student technology in classrooms and its potential impact on children's learning, attention, social development, and overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) students and educators regularly utilize digital tools during the school day to access instructional platforms, individualized interventions, assessments, communication systems, and digital content, including but not limited to i-Ready, Google Classroom, Zoom, and YouTube; and

WHEREAS, NYCPS significantly expanded digital device use during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, often without consistent systemwide standards governing appropriate instructional use, privacy protections, or developmental limits; and

WHEREAS, NYCPS enacted a [bell-to-bell restriction](#) on personal devices, but fails to maintain [adequate guidance](#) for schools on the appropriate use of devices for instructional purposes and devices are often utilized in the classroom with parental knowledge, notification or consent; and

WHEREAS, CEC30 passed [Resolution 208](#) in Support of a Two-Year Moratorium on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in New York City Public Schools and Calling for Protections to Safeguard Student Privacy; and

WHEREAS, [a growing body of research](#) suggests that excessive screen use during the elementary years may negatively affect attention, executive functioning, reading comprehension, sleep, and opportunities for face-to-face interaction and hands-on learning; and



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WHEREAS, several school systems, including the [Los Angeles Unified School District](#), have adopted policies eliminating classroom screen time before second grade and limiting use for older students during the school day in recognition of these concerns; and

WHEREAS, [statewide action in Iowa](#) reflects bipartisan recognition of the need to rebalance technology use in schools, including legislation requiring school districts to restrict student use of personal electronic devices during instructional time and proposals to limit elementary school screen exposure to approximately one hour per day; and

WHEREAS, in May 2026, the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), representing more than 700,000 education professionals, adopted a [statewide resolution](#) calling for developmentally appropriate limits on classroom technology, including no one-to-one devices or online testing in prekindergarten through second grade except for documented educational needs, emphasizing that “educators are not anti-technology; we are pro-child”; and

WHEREAS, the American Federation of Teachers has similarly called for a [“devices down, eyes up, hands-on”](#) approach to learning, recognizing the importance of preserving direct instruction, human relationships, and active learning experiences for children; and

WHEREAS, Community Education Councils across New York City, including Community Education Councils [4](#) and [24](#), have adopted resolutions calling for developmentally appropriate limits on classroom technology, increased transparency regarding student screen time, stronger student privacy protections, and expanded access to paper-based instructional and assessment options, demonstrating growing consensus among parent leaders throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, Community Education Councils are charged with representing the interests of families and advocating for educational policies that support student achievement, healthy development, and meaningful family engagement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council 30 calls upon New York City Public schools to establish systemwide Screen Time Policy that :

- Sets age-appropriate expectations for technology use in elementary, middle and high school that ensures technology enhances, not replaces, direct instruction, discussion, writing, laboratory work, hands-on learning, and collaborative problem-solving.
- Makes every reasonable effort to eliminate routine individual student device use in kindergarten through fifth grade, except where such use is necessary to provide accessibility accommodations, support emergency remote instruction during school closures, or accomplish instructional objectives that cannot reasonably be achieved through non-screen methods; and



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- Provides annual guidance to schools on acceptable and consistent use of screen time in instructional settings and requires transparency with families regarding the amount, purpose, and educational rationale and outcomes for student technology use in elementary classrooms; and
- Provides clear mechanisms to families to request reduced screen exposure, opt out of 1:1 devices, and ensures students must be provided with alternate and/or paper-based instructional methods

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC30 calls upon Chancellor Kamar H. Samuels and NYCPS to prioritize evidence-based instructional practices that promote active learning, teacher-directed instruction, peer collaboration, discussion, handwriting, physical manipulatives, and other screen-free learning experiences whenever practicable

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Chancellor Kamar H. Samuels, District 30 Community Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo, the New York City Panel for Educational Policy, the New York City Council Education Committee, and the New York State Education Department.

Adopted this 10th day of August 2026, by CEC 30.

Rollcall:

Linda Chung-Leung: EXCUSED ABSENT
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: IN FAVOR -Virtual
Alexis Kaloyanides: IN FAVOR
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: IN FAVOR
Victoria Medelius: IN FAVOR
Estela Nguema: IN FAVOR -Virtual
Marlene Rossi: IN FAVOR
Nadeea Saeed: EXCUSED ABSENT
Laura Simpson: IN FAVOR
Kayla Spence: IN FAVOR
Whitney Toussaint: IN FAVOR