

Dear Oregon Legislators,

I want to express my strong support for bill SB 282 and to encourage more study and communication of the positive and negative effects of personal electronic devices in schools.

My son is a fourth grader in Bend, Oregon and he was so excited to receive his own iPad last year with the rest of his class. I too am excited by the potential opportunities this will open up for students and teachers, but I also see a lot of risk that isn't being addressed. I have seen at home a direct relationship between the amount of time my son spends on his iPad and his behavior, and so I limit his screen time at home, and we work to find a happy balance. Additionally I hear new information every day about the addictive and other negative effects of screen time.

What is the advantage of giving each child an iPad? And what are the disadvantages? What is being done in schools to make sure these devices are not having a bigger negative impact than any positive changes they bring? Why do kids need their own full time device at school? Could the upside of technology be achieved with less screen time?

I am encouraged by this bill and am looking forward to hearing more specifics around how technology, personal devices and iPads can be used in a thoughtful way in school while understanding and taking steps to avoid the associated risks.

Sincerely,
Julie Gallagher
Bend, Oregon