

1:1 iPads are deployed to every student in our school district, grade 3 and above. The rollout has been touted by the district as a way to ensure a "world class education" for our students. While that sounds laudable as a quick soundbite, there is zero evidence to support that it actually improves learning outcomes. In fact, the opposite is true.

We know--through legitimate, peer-reviewed research--that excessive screen time for children has a negative impact on cognitive, social, and behavioral development of young kids. We also know that students retain information better when reading a paper book, rather than on a screen. There is a tactile component to learning that doesn't occur with a device.

Students are given free time on their iPads when they have to wait - in bus lines, when weather calls for in-door recess, etc. Frankly, I would rather my kids learn how to wait without the need for constant entertainment. Maybe they would talk to a friend, read a book, or daydream.

Most parents I talk to don't have any problem with schools having class sets of iPads for technology instruction and other occasional use. It's this complete pendulum swing to nearly-constant screen exposure that we have a problem with. Let's take a step back and add some common sense restrictions to the iPad craze. Students can learn about the technology of today without becoming wholly dependent on it or constantly exposed to it. As adults, it's our job to ensure that doesn't happen.

I respectfully urge you to vote yes on SB 282.

Kelly F. McDonald, MPH  
Public Health Consultant  
Bend, OR