

Response Received from MCPS Administration

How much staff time and resources would be needed to audit student screen time across Grades K - 8?

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Division of Technology Services and Division of Teaching and Learning acknowledge the Board of Education's interest in evaluating student screen time and supports the objective of obtaining a comprehensive understanding of how technology is used across schools, grade levels, and instructional programs. We agree that a districtwide audit is necessary to establish an accurate baseline before any conclusions or recommendations regarding student screen time can be considered.

At present, MCPS does not have a system that comprehensively measures student screen time across all digital resources and curricular activities. As a result, the district must first design and implement a formal audit process capable of distinguishing required curriculum-based technology use from other forms of digital engagement.

Conducting this review will require collaboration among the Division of Technology Services, the Division of Teaching and Learning, the Division of School Leadership and Improvement, school-based staff, and the MCPS labor associations to develop an audit methodology, collect and analyze data, and assess technology use within the context of instructional requirements and educational outcomes. This process will require resource commitments from the various stakeholders engaged throughout this process.

Also, we know that there has been a request for a parent portal to provide further insights into student Chromebook usage. The parent portal is not included in our technology contracts currently. There are products on the market that offer this capability. However, we would want to pursue a Request for Proposal to evaluate products and costs before an enterprise purchase occurs given the current budget climate.

MCPS recognizes the importance of understanding the K-8 student screen time in a thoughtful, data-informed manner. A districtwide audit is the appropriate first step to ensure that any future decisions are grounded in accurate information, aligned with instructional needs, and considerate of operational and fiscal impacts.

Following the audit, the Division of Teaching and Learning will review the findings to make instructional changes, if needed. Changes may vary by student grade level, curricula, and assessment requirements.