

UINTAH RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Balanced Instructional Technology Use Policy

Purpose

The Board of Directors of Uintah River High School has established this policy in support of Utah Code §53E-4-202 and in compliance with Utah Code §53G-7-228 to ensure a balance of traditional learning with technology-supported education. The board acknowledges that the combination of traditional pedagogy, personal teacher guidance, and digital tools builds strong basic skills alongside 21st century skills for future studies and careers. This policy provides guidelines for balancing the use of technology in the classroom with traditional pedagogies based on the age and developmental levels of students in each course, and exempts certain courses focused on technology education, computer science, and information technology from grade-level limitations on technology use.

Definitions

Instructional Technology: means technology an LEA issues to a student in connection with the student's public education, including an electronic device, a digital tool, or a digital application.

Public School: means a school under the control of a school district, a charter school, or the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Screen-Time: means the time a student spends using an electronic device with a screen in a classroom setting when the use of the electronic device does not involve instruction, guidance, or interaction with a teacher, an instructor, or other designated educational personnel. Screen-Time does *not* include work or instruction for an online student as that term is defined in Utah Code §53G-6-705.

Technology-Related Learning Difficulty: means a condition where a student experiences a pattern of difficulty learning through the use of instructional technology.

Technology-Related Learning Difficulty does *not* include a temporary or situational difficulty with technology use that is unrelated to a learning need that is diagnosed or identifiable.

Purposeful Digital Use

Before the school uses instructional technology in any classroom, the school will ensure that it meets the following criteria:

- The instructional technology has been demonstrated to have significant educational value;
- The instructional technology is absent of design features that interfere with learning, distract from instruction, or reduce academic focus;

- The use of the instructional technology has been demonstrated by evidence and data to have educational value appropriate to the grade level in which the technology will be used;
- The instructional technology is safe for a student's physical, cognitive, and emotional development;
- The instructional technology is effective in supporting student learning outcomes;
- The instructional technology is not used as a substitute for instruction;
- The instructional technology has been intentionally integrated into instruction to enhance student learning outcomes; and,
- The instructional technology is compliant with state standards and law including the Utah Code §53G-10-103, Sensitive Instructional Materials and Title 53E, Chapter 9, Student Privacy and Data Protection.

General Requirements for Use of Technology in Classrooms

The school will implement the following requirements for use of technology in classrooms:

- Minimization of non-essential screen-time;
- Prioritization of purposeful engagement with instructional technology that directly supports instructional goals;
- Internal monitoring and accountability protocols to ensure compliance with this policy;
- Training for faculty and staff on requirements for use of technology in the classroom;
- Provision of resource plans for students who demonstrate a pattern of difficulty learning through technology-based instruction;
- Transparency with parents regarding the use of instructional technology.

Grade-Level Requirements for Use of Technology in Classrooms

High School Students

- An allowance for a student to take home a school-issued device for schoolwork or an academic program approved by the school, only when a parent opts-in through written consent;
- A requirement to balance the use of an instructional technology with instruction through teacher-led, print-based, and analog methods;
- A requirement to limit access to the internet through filters consistent with age-appropriate standards.

Exceptions to General and Grade-Level Requirements

The general and grade-level requirements for the use of technology in classrooms do not apply to the following:

- A course where instructional technology is integral to the subject matter of the course of a specialty class;
- Instruction or equipment related to online schools and the Statewide Online Education Program (SOEP) per Utah Code §53F-4-502;
- A course or instruction designed to meet core technology standards created by the Utah State Board of Education (USB E) under Utah Code §53G-7-1401;
- An Artificial Intelligence (AI) sandbox course as that term is defined in Utah Code §53G-7-1401;
- A public school located within the boundaries of a tribal nation where the LEA is the internet service provider; or,
- The use of instructional technology consistent with a student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Resource Plans for Students with Technology-Related Learning Difficulties

In accordance with Utah Code §53G-7-229, the school will create resource plans for accommodating a student that demonstrates a technology-related learning difficulty. The resource plan may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Access to printed materials;
- Alternative assignment formats;
- Access to a technology resource center;
- Access to an educational professional with expertise in technology and technology-related learning difficulties;
- Extra time for technology-based tasks;
- Hands-on, project-based learning;
- Book-based curriculum; and,
- Verbal instruction.

Adopted: August 18, 2026