Policy XXXX
School Board

INSTRUCTION

Office of Instructional Services

Use of Educational Technology

I. PURPOSE

To establish a framework to ensure the safe, ethical, equitable, transparent use of educational technology that aligns with the division's educational mission.

II. SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- This is a new policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI is a technology that uses computer programming and data to learn and perform tasks. AI tools use available data to make predictions, decisions, and create content.

Human-in-the-Loop: A governance principle requiring that humans retain responsibility for reviewing, validating, and making decisions informed by AI outputs

Digital Devices: Equipment that includes a screen and processor that utilizes software and can interact with the user through a touchscreen, mouse, keyboard, and other tools.

IV. PHILOSOPHY

The Fairfax County School Board recognizes that instructional technology can be a valuable tool to enhance teaching, learning, communication, creativity, and operational efficiency in the service of human-centered education. Technology shall be used to support — not replace — the professional judgment, expertise, and relationships that are essential to effective teaching and learning. The relationship between educator and student remains the cornerstone of the educational experience, and the use of instructional technology should support and strengthen that connection, promoting balanced, purposeful, and developmentally appropriate use. This framework reflects the Division's commitment to harnessing instructional technology to expand learning opportunities, support personalized instruction, improve efficiency, and strengthen digital literacy, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, while upholding academic integrity, protecting student data privacy, and

maintaining safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environments for all students.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Evidence-Based Practices: the Superintendent shall incorporate educational technology that measurably improves educational outcomes. When presenting to the School Board, the Superintendent must provide evidence-based plans that explain how the technology will enhance educational outcomes while mitigating risks to cognitive development and mental health.

B. Digital Literacy Instruction: The Division Superintendent shall develop and implement a digital literacy instruction plan, with sufficient professional development for staff directly instructing students. This plan will be publicly accessible. The Division Superintendent will provide annual updates to the School Board in accordance with the FCPS Strategic Plan Goal Reports and Executive Limitation 9.

C. Intentional Device Usage:

Intentional Device Usage: The Division Superintendent shall develop and implement guidelines for the purposeful integration of educational technology. The primary objective of the K-12 educational experience is high-quality, educator-led instruction. Digital tools and devices are secondary to effective pedagogy. Educators must act first as designers of authentic, learner-driven activities, remaining deliberate and purposeful about instructional design before introducing any digital device. Technology will be integrated into the learning environment exclusively when it serves to enhance, deepen, or accelerate student learning, and to facilitate experiences that maximize active, deep learning aligned with content standards. Digital devices must never be used as a passive substitute for direct instruction, nor are they intended to replace the essential, irreplaceable role of the teacher.

- **Pre-Kindergarten to 1st Grade**: Digital devices shall be prohibited from student use.
- **Elementary Schools**: Digital devices may be used for 2nd grade onward for intentional educational purposes and stored away at all other times. Devices will not be used in lieu of indoor recess activities.
- **Permission to Bring Devices Home*:*** Parent permission is necessary for any instructional technology to go home with a student.
- **Opt-Out:**

E. Family and Community Engagement: Information about how technology is selected for and used in instruction shall be clearly defined and publicly accessible. This includes but is not limited to:

- Annual Parent Digital Consent Forms
- Digital Ecosystem Library
- Reports on student usage, such as Lightspeed

Legal References: [INSERT TEXT, CHECK VERSIONS, LINKS, AND ACCURACY]
[INSERT TEXT] (1.3)

See also the current versions of:
[INSERT TEXT, CHECK VERSIONS, LINKS, AND ACCURACY] (0.3)

Adopted: XXXX XX, XXXX

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD