Resolution for Responsible Instructional Technology

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County School Board is committed to the academic success, well-being, and healthy development of every student as a constant in the face of a rapidly changing and uncertain future; and

WHEREAS, education is, and should remain, a human-centered endeavor, and the essential, empathetic relationship between teacher and student remains the cornerstone of the educational experience; and

WHEREAS, technology may be used in the service of human-centered education to augment and enhance the professional judgement, creativity, and instructional expertise of educators and allow students to learn at their highest capabilities, support differentiated instruction, expand access to resources, meet FCPS' Portrait of a Graduate attributes, and prepare all FCPS graduates for the future; and

WHEREAS, new technologies, including artificial intelligence, carry both benefits and risks; and

WHEREAS, intentional and developmentally appropriate technology use in schools can support students' cognitive, linguistic, and social and emotional development while ensuring responsible safeguards for student privacy and well-being;

WHEREAS, all use of instructional technology should be grounded in instructional goals, best practices, principles of child development, and evaluation of outcomes and implemented with input from educators, families, and students; and

WHEREAS, supporting all students includes ensuring equitable access to resources that enable participation, communication, health, safety, and self-regulation, consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and efforts to promote responsible technology use should distinguish between non-essential use and the use of technology as an accommodation or support, and should be implemented in ways that foster inclusion and avoid stigmatizing students who rely on such tools; and

WHEREAS, the rapidly evolving digital landscape requires ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the benefits and risks of all instructional technology; and

WHEREAS, all students need age-appropriate instruction on digital citizenship and literacy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County School Board supports the development of policies and regulations that meet the educational, social, and emotional needs of FCPS students and should include elements such as limitations on screen time and device access by grade level, opt-out options for families, and a digital citizenship and literacy plan.