

Questions Parents Should Ask about Edtech

Technology has many benefits, but parents are increasingly concerned about the misuse and overuse of edtech. We recommend that parents ask their child's school and school district to hold regular meetings to inform and update parents about the use of technology. Here are some important questions to ask:

1. What specific electronic devices and programs is my child using in school?
2. Are the devices being used according to manufacturers' safe use guidelines, i.e., in ways to protect children's eyes and posture? What evidence (e.g., training received by teachers, support materials available) is there to demonstrate safe use?
3. How much time per day is my child spending on an electronic device? Are there mandated breaks?
4. How much additional time, if any, is my child being asked to spend on an electronic device outside of school hours?
5. How much is the program costing the school or district?
6. What data, if any, is being collected by electronic devices and programs? When is it removed?
7. How is that data used, and does the vendor profit by using my child's data for marketing or other commercial purposes?
8. How is the school protecting my child's privacy? What measures have been taken to increase security (from breaches, ransomware, etc.) in the last two years?
9. For each specific program attached to an electronic device that my child is using, please share the purpose of the program, the reason for its inclusion in the curriculum, and evidence of its effectiveness.
10. If I choose to opt my child out of programs that depend on the use of electronic devices, what alternative forms of instruction and assessment will be made available?

If you don't receive sufficient answers to your questions, consider **advocating** against excessive use of online programs, or consider having your child **opt out** of one or more of these programs.

These questions have been adapted from materials developed by [Parents Across America](#).