InnovateEDU

Responsible Education Technology Use in Pre-K Through Grade 5



Model State Policy | Executive Overview for State Legislators & SEA Leaders

Four
Core policy pillars

60 days
AI Companion prohibition effective

100%
Screen-free recess

Executive Overview

The Responsible Education Technology Use in Pre-K Through Grade 5 Act establishes a child-centered statutory framework so digital tools earn their place in young children's classrooms through rigorous evidence of learning value, strong student-data privacy, and child safety and developmental guardrails, while preserving uninterrupted Assistive Technology access for students with disabilities.

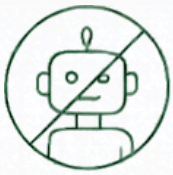
Pillar I:
Screen-Free Recess & Non-Digital Learning



Section 3

Protect daily non-digital learning, conversation, physical books, writing, movement, and recess. Recess may not be withheld or replaced by technology and must remain 100% screen-free except required assistive technology and documented health/safety needs.

Pillar II:
No Artificial Intelligence (AI) Companions



Section 4

Schools and LEAs may not buy, turn on, allow, or provide AI Companions for students in PreK–Grade 5. An AI Companion is a tool or feature that simulates friendship, empathy, or an emotional bond, presents itself as a peer or trusted adult, or claims to meet a child's social or emotional needs.

Pillar III:
Age-Appropriate Screen & AI Guardrails



Sections 3, 5, 6 & 10

Pre-K–Grade 2: Use must be educator-led, brief, purposeful, and infrequent. Student-facing generative AI prohibited except narrow stated exceptions
Grades 3–5: Use must be narrow, educator-guided, brief, and purposeful. Student-facing generative AI requires conditional LEA approval and a documented safety review.

Pillar IV:
Disability Access & Data Privacy



Sections 7, 8, 9 & 10

The Act preserves all IDEA and Section 504 rights. If a tool is stopped, schools must promptly provide an Equivalent Pathway so students keep the access they need. Selling or monetizing student data is prohibited, and student data may not be used to train AI models unless the contract authorizes it for a specific LEA educational purpose.

State vs. District Governance Architecture

Clear accountability for safe, evidence-based, inclusive, usable, and interoperable education technology

	State Department of Education (SEA) Role	Local School District (LEA) Role
Vetting & Authorization	SEA maintains a public Statewide EdTech Registry using ULTID identifiers and the five EdTech Quality Indicators: Safe, Evidence-Based, Inclusive, Usable, Interoperable. Listing on the state registry is not state approval.	LEA authorizes specific Configured Uses in writing after a local safety review and evaluating displacement.
Evidence & Sandboxes	SEA administers or delegates administration of time-limited Sandbox trials with affirmative written parent consent, appoints independent evaluators, and publishes findings including unfavorable results.	LEA verifies both ESSA Tier IV and evidence for non-AI tools and ESSA Tier I/II, or Tier III/IV with an outcomes-based contract, for AI tools before procurement or renewal.
Support & Enforcement	SEA provides model contracts, parent notice templates, openly licensed Pre-K–Grade 5 AI literacy curricula, targeted assistance for low-capacity and rural LEAs, and may debar bad-actor vendors for up to 3 years.	LEA publishes a plain-language list of authorized tools updated within 15 business days, delivers parent notice, trains staff, and blocks unauthorized uses and AI Companions.

Pediatric & Neuroscience Rationale

2026 American Academy of Pediatrics Alignment: The model policy aligns with the American Academy of Pediatrics' 2026 policy statement, The Crucial Role of Recess in School (Pediatrics). The AAP finds that recess is essential for children's health, focus, and learning, and should never be withheld for academic or punitive reasons. The model policy keeps recess device-free because screen use during breaks may reduce the rest and movement that help children absorb what they learned in class.

Within 60 Days

AI Companion prohibition takes full legal effect; vendors confirm exclusion of AI Companion features to LEAs and SEA.

Effective Date

Core statutory duties for SEA and LEAs take effect with enough time for implementation support and guidance.

At Renewal or Within 12 Months

Existing vendor contracts and authorized uses come into full compliance at renewal or within 12 months, whichever comes first.