HF 2676: Student Instructional Technology FAQ

Introduction

House File 2676 (HF 2676), signed into law on May 20, 2026, includes Division VIII Student Instructional Technology Standards, amending Iowa Code 256E.7, subsection 2; 256F.4, subsection 2; and adding new section 279.89. The following information is specific to new section 279.89 of Iowa Code.

Student Instructional Technology Standards

1. **To whom do the student instructional technology standards apply?**
    - Public schools and charter schools are included in the new requirements of Division VIII of House File 2676 for student instructional technology standards.

2. **What are the definitions used for student instructional technology standards?**
    - "Digital instruction" means lessons, assignments, assessments, or instructional activities delivered through instructional technology.
    - "Instructional technology" means a laptop, tablet, computer, smart device, instructional software platform, or other similar device or platform used for student learning.
    - "One-to-one digital device program" means a program through which a school district provides or assigns a digital device to each student for instructional use.
    - "School-provided technology" includes laptop computers, online learning management systems, and classroom slideshow presentations.

3. **To what grades do the student instructional technology standards apply?**
    - Student instructional technology standards apply to students enrolled in grades kindergarten through five.

4. **What are the daily digital instruction limits for grades kindergarten through five?**
    - Digital instruction (as defined above) shall not cumulatively exceed sixty minutes per school day.

5. **What does not count toward the daily digital instruction limits?**
    - The following uses shall **not** count toward the daily sixty-minute digital instruction limit:
        - Digital technology or instructional use required pursuant to an individualized education program or a plan developed pursuant to section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973
        - Assistive or adaptive technology used to provide a student access to instruction or to accommodate differing student abilities
            - Iowa Administrative Code rule 281—41.5 defines "assistive technology device" as any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability. The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted or the replacement of such device. [Please note adaptive technology is a subset of

assistive technology that is specifically designed for individuals with disabilities.]
    - Teacher-directed demonstrations using a projector, smartboard, or similar display device when students are not individually operating a digital device
    - State assessments, screening, progress monitoring, and local diagnostic assessments that require the use of a one-to-one digital device (e.g. Amira)
    - Dedicated computer science and technology curriculum

6. **How do the student instructional technology standards apply to students enrolled in online learning?**
    - Student instructional technology standards do not apply to students enrolled in an online learning program operating pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.43.

7. **How do new student instructional technology standards limit instruction over the internet to meet the minimum school calendar requirements?**
    - New student instructional technology standards do not limit the authority of a school district, charter school, or accredited non-public school under Iowa Code section 279.10, subsection 1, regarding provision of instruction over the internet to meet the minimum school calendar requirements. As a reminder, Iowa Code section 279.10, subsection 1 states, "the school calendar shall include not less than one hundred eighty days or one thousand eighty hours of instruction during the calendar year, of which not more than five days or thirty hours of instruction may be delivered primarily over the internet except as otherwise provided in section 256.43 or in rules adopted by the state board of education pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 32."

8. **Is there an exemption from the sixty-minute instructional technology limit for accelerated or gifted and talented programming including compacted curriculum programming and gifted and talented student's personalized education plan (PEP)?**
    - No. The law makes no exceptions for acceleration, compacted curriculum or gifted and talented programming including student's personalized education plans (PEP).

School Responsibilities

9. **What are schools required to include in their policy?**
    - The board of directors of each school district shall adopt a written technology use policy applicable to grades kindergarten through five that includes all of the following:
        - The district's daily digital instruction limits
        - Notice of a parent's or guardian's right to request additional reductions in their child's digital instruction
        - A statement that instructional technology shall support, and not supplant, foundational learning
        - A prohibition on the use of digital devices during recess

10. **Where can stakeholders find a school's student instructional technology policy?**
    - The school's student instructional technology policy shall be published on each elementary school's internet site. The policy may also be available in the student handbook.

11. What new procedures must schools use to renew or adopt digital device programs for student instructional use?

- Prior to adopting or renewing a one-to-one digital device program for any grade level, the board of directors of a school district shall complete a technology adoption checklist that documents consideration of all of the following:
    - The instructional purpose of the device
    - Age appropriateness of the device and associated instructional software
    - Content-filtering limitations and the district's capacity to mitigate those limitations
    - Whether student data is collected, stored, or shared, and the nature of such data practices
- The checklist shall be retained by the board and made available to the department of education upon request for audit or compliance purposes.