July 24, 2026

Five Requests for Consideration Prior to August 3rd Policy Meeting

1. Establish Full Transparency and Public Accountability for all EdTech

- Parents must know every program, app, website, platform, vendor, contract, expense, privacy agreement, and data practice involving their children. LMSD should immediately release all vendor contracts and aggregate screen use data by grade and school, including educational and non-educational use. The district should provide a direct answer to the ongoing question: "does the district have contractual obligations that require students to be on screens?" We recognize that producing these kinds of records will require an investment of staff time, but maintaining these statistics is essential for effective parent-child communication and for tracking the returns on investment of these technologies. LMSD should also release all relevant research used to make these purchasing decisions.
- Annual reviews should not rest with the same administrators who select and implement EdTech. LMSD should establish an independent standing advisory committee of students, parents, teachers, administrators, Board members, and child experts. The committee should meet on a regular basis (at least quarterly) to review effectiveness, safety, privacy, spending, actual use, and make public recommendations.

2. Implement a Universal K-12 Bell-to-Bell Ban on Personal Devices

- All K-12 students should be required to turn off and store their phones, smartwatches, personal tablets, laptops, earbuds, and similar devices from arrival until dismissal, including lunch, Lunch and Learn, passing periods, and Intervention and Enrichment. Exceptions should apply only for emergencies and documented medical, IEP, or Section 504 needs.
- The draft policy maintains a device restriction only up to grade 8. This gap allows high school students to use personal devices throughout the school day. There is no educational reason for this exception.
- Pencils Over Pixels supports the future expansion of a bell-to-bell ban to other school-based activities that extend beyond the school day.

3. Perform Content Filtering in an "Approved-Only" Model

- The current filtering and monitoring system has already failed to prevent students from accessing distracting and harmful content including Five Nights at Epstein's, pornography, inappropriate YouTube content, and non-educational games. The proposed AR acknowledges this flaw as it states "no filtering software is completely secure or effective" yet the District chooses to reactively block inappropriate and non-educational content after it has already been accessed. The only acceptable standard is zero-tolerance for harmful or inappropriate content on District devices and networks.
- LMSD should permit only approved educational resources to enhance the safety of children and ensure the District's compliance with CIPA, including through adequate internet safety policies that include protection measures. Generative AI, YouTube, social media, streaming, shopping, gambling, gaming, and messaging should remain blocked unless specifically authorized for educational purposes.

4. Core K-8 Instruction Restored to Teacher-Led, Human-Centered Instruction

- Core curriculum (math, English/language Arts, science, and social studies) should be taught through direct instruction, physical books, paper, pencils, handwriting, discussion, experiments, and hands-on learning. Gamified apps, adaptive platforms, automated instruction, dashboards, and individual screen-facing seatwork should not be used for delivery, practice, or reinforcement of core curriculum.
- The draft policy permits technology in every grade, assigns individual devices beginning in grade 5 (which is still elementary), and encourages regular digital work in grades 7 and 8, despite stating that technology must never replace essential human relationships and learning experiences. This contradiction must be resolved in favor of human relationships and pedagogical best practices.
- For grades 9 through 12, LMSD should conduct an immediate independent review with teachers, parents, students, and relevant experts. Until then, the District should not expand EdTech or enter into new long-term commitments.
- Assistive technology must remain fully available for students with IEPs, Section 504 plans, medical needs, or other documented accommodations.

5. Obtain Explicit, Informed, and Revocable Parental Opt-In Prior to Issuing Any 1:1 Device or App

- Annual notice is not consent. LMSD must obtain explicit parental approval before issuing a one-to-one device or enrolling a student in any app, website, platform, or program. Parents must receive disclosure about its purpose, screen use, data collection, privacy risks, third party access, costs, and nondigital alternatives.
- Families that decline must receive the same curriculum through teachers, books, paper, and pencils. No digital homework or technology dependent core instruction should be required, and no child should be penalized, isolated, or denied access.
- Consent must remain revocable and cannot be replaced by a blanket agreement. Necessary assistive technology must remain available for documented needs.