

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

September 9, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education  
From: Monifa B. McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Subject: Screen-time in Classrooms (07-15-2021-01-C)

During the *Public Comments* section of the agenda, Board members requested the following:

Ms. Harris requested information regarding the amount of screen-time in classrooms and the use of hard copy materials. She specifically requested the following:

**Question C #1**

How much screen-time will be used in the classrooms and whether a maximum amount of time could be set?

**Response C #1**

Schools are being asked to appropriately balance the use of digital resources and print resources such as workbooks and novels. This may vary across grade levels and courses. In English/Language Arts classes at both the elementary and secondary levels, students are expected to utilize print novels throughout the school year as part of their instruction.

**Question C #2**

Is there a way to follow up on what Ms. Cline mentioned in her testimony regarding getting actual books?

**Response C #2**

Staff in the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs (OCIP) have been in contact with Ms. Cline regarding her experience and concerns.

**Question C #3**

Is there a reliable process for parents to request text books/materials for their students?

**Response C #3**

Parents/guardians are encouraged to first contact their student's school for textbooks or other materials that may support or supplement instruction. If they are unable to obtain the resources needed, they should contact OCIP. OCIP staff will work with the school to provide the requested resources to the greatest extent possible given available titles and quantities.

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Niki T. Hazel, associate superintendent of curriculum and instructional programs, Office of Teaching, Learning, and Schools, at 240-740-3970, or via email.

MBM:RR:NTH:sjz

Copy to:  
Executive Staff  
Ms. Webb