

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE INTERNET SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Section 22.1-24.1 of the Code of Virginia provides that the Superintendent of Public Instruction “shall establish and appoint members of the **Internet Safety Advisory Council** (the Council) for the purpose of advancing the goal of safe use of media and technology by students and teachers in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth.” The statute sets out the membership of the Council. This section of Code was added by Chapter 776 during the 2022 General Assembly. Chapter 111 (2023 Acts of Assembly) amended this section to add that the Council may collaborate with law-enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies, and other nongovernmental organizations with expertise in child online safety issues and human trafficking prevention. **The statute is in effect until July 1, 2024.**

The duties of the Council include:

- **Developing recommendations to the Board of Education for adoption, a model policy** for local school boards that would enable them to better support the Internet safety of all students and teachers;
- Developing recommendations to the Board of Education for adoption, model instructional practices for and **instructional content** on the safe use of media and technology by students and teachers; and
- Designing and **posting on the Department's website** a page with links to successful instructional practices, curricula, and other teacher resources.

UPDATES SINCE APRIL 2024

- 1. Expanded the definition of Digital Citizenship from** “Citizenship from the state of being skilled in using the internet in order to communicate with others in a safe and responsible way” **to** “the responsible, ethical, and safe use of technology and the internet. It involves navigating the digital world with respect, integrity, and empathy towards others. At its core, digital citizenship emphasizes the importance of being mindful of one’s online presence and interactions, just as one would be in the physical world. By promoting digital citizenship, educators and parents help equip children and young adults with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and digital society while fostering a culture of respect, responsibility, and ethical behavior online.”
- 2. Expounded on the integration** of the 2020 Digital Learning Integration *Standards of Learning* into the curriculum, especially in the content strand of Digital Citizenship.
- 3. Added language to address screen time:** "Emphasize digital wellness by establishing healthy screen time limits, encouraging educator to a balance between screen-based activities and other pursuits, and promote activities that support physical, social, and cognitive development. Consider factors such as: physical health, sleep disruption, social and emotional development, cognitive development, and academic performance. Create common blended learning spaces in the classroom that support physical, emotional, social and cognitive development to increase engagement, physical movement, and collaboration."

ADDED MODEL INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES



Recognition,
Avoidance,
and
Reporting
Procedures

Trusted
Adults

Social
Media

Privacy and
Sharing
Personal
Information

Copyright
and Sharing

Screentime

VDOE Contact Information

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