



West Ada School District

Intentional Device Use and Screen Time

2026–27 School Year

Rhonda McDonough, Chief Academic Officer of Teaching and Learning

Why Now, Why This?



THE WHY

Doing Our Part

1 National, global, and local concern

Research and public conversation around student screen time, wellness, and device use in schools have grown significantly.

2 Our students, our responsibility

West Ada serves ~40,000 students across 60 schools. How we use devices matters.

3 Our teachers already make great calls every day

This is not about correcting practice. It's about naming what we protect together and building shared and transparent language around it.

Teaching & Learning

Maximize Student Learning



RIGHT TOOL



RIGHT TIME



RIGHT PURPOSE



Getting Here

West Ada's work toward intentional device use is unfolding in deliberate phases each building on what we learned from the last.

1

Cell Phone Policy

2024–25

Restricted personal cell phones during instruction, reclaiming attention and reducing unstructured screen time.

2

1:1 Device Reevaluation

2025–26

A Guiding Coalition — 19 dept. leaders, 100+ teachers, 135 survey respondents — examining our device model.

Student and parent feedback opportunities are planned for fall 2026.

3

Screen Time & Intentional Device Use

2026–27

Beginning Now

TOP OPPORTUNITY IDENTIFIED

Reduce Screen Time & Increase Intentional Use



Intentional Device Use: Version 1.0

We Start Here

1

No device use during unstructured time (K-12)

2

Devices earn their place in every lesson.

3

Real Data, not Assumptions.

What will look like?

1

No Devices During Unstructured Time

K-8: Recess, breaks, transitions, lunch, and any unscheduled time are **screen-free**, including open device time in the classroom with no defined task.

9-12: Any class time on a device without a defined task is unstructured time.

2

Devices earn their place in every lesson.

Could this be done better without a screen?

If yes, and the non-screen approach better serves the learning goal, we choose that.

3

Real Data, Not Assumptions

Implementing Lightspeed Digital Insights to track student time on devices, applications used, and usage patterns across the day and week.

We will use the data to learn and guide our next steps.



Percentage-Based Weekly Targets K-8

Level	Screen Free
Elementary (K-5)	90%
Middle School (6-8)	80%

Assessment time is ALWAYS excluded, and Middle School courses that are device-dependent will be factored differently.



No devices during unstructured time

**Before school • Recess
• Transitions • Lunch •
Indoor recess • Breaks
• Any unscheduled
block of time**

*Consult with Special Education for guidance
on device time included in IEPs.*



Next Steps

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Screen Time & Intentional Device Use

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District-wide guidance defining purposeful device use

K–8 targets

K–12 data-gathering begins now.

4

1:1 Model Adjustments and Screen Time Guidance

Next Steps

End of Semester 1
2026–27

Recommendations for 2027–2028 based on data and the coalition feedback.

