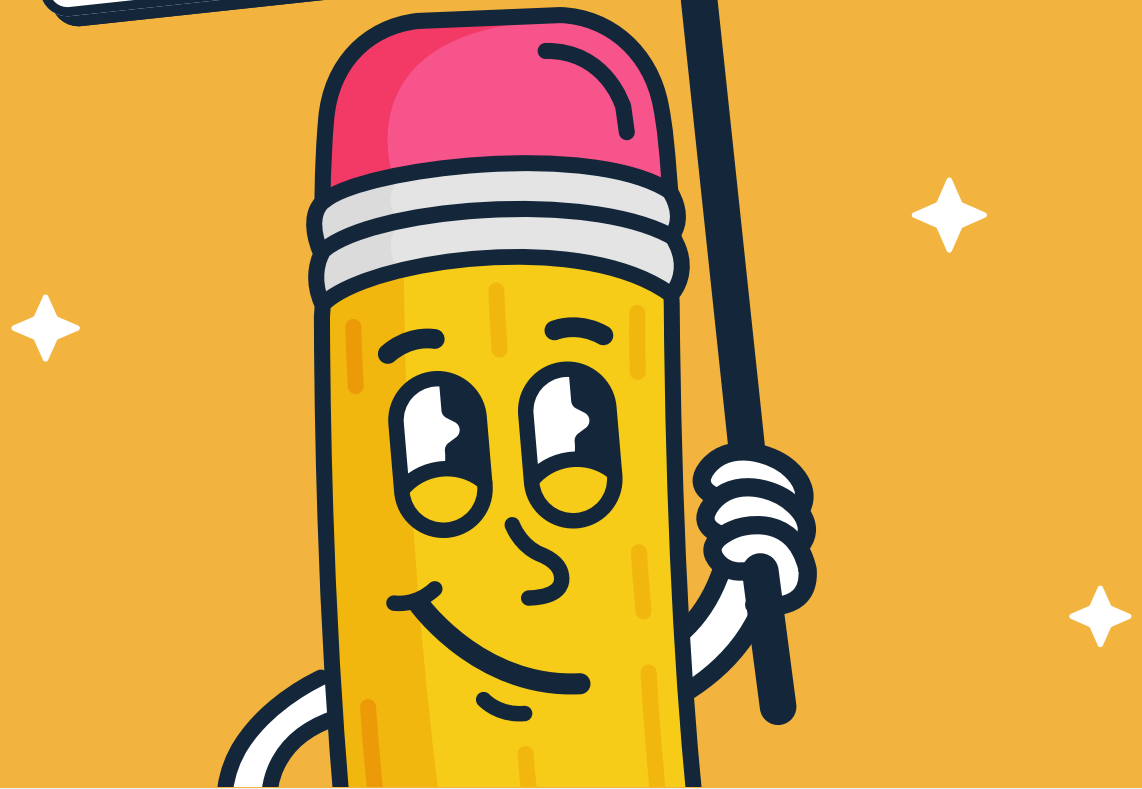


7 Ways to Advocate for a Tech-Safe School Year

A Parent Action Guide



1

Ask for a list of every digital tool your child will use.

If your child is expected to use it, you have every right to know what it is. Once you have your list, take time to research each product and decide if you are comfortable with their use.

- Hardware
- Apps
- Websites
- AI tools
- Learning platforms
- Student accounts

2

Ask for the research.

If there are digital tools that you are uncomfortable with or unsure of the educational value, ask your school:

“How does [INSERT TOOL] improve learning compared to teacher-led instruction or paper?”

This keeps the conversation focused on educational value – not convenience or novelty. This tool called [SCImago](#) can help you assess the research to decide if it's high quality. Not all research is created equal.

If there isn't quality research supporting use of the digital tool, let your school know and ask for printed materials with teacher-led instruction instead.

3

Review your child's school-issued device.

Get your hands on the device, even if it's at school. Poke around to see what your child can access.

If you are unhappy with what your child is exposed to on their school-issued device, let the school know.

- If YouTube is available, scroll through the recommended videos.
- If AI tools like Google Gemini are available, ask your school to disable it immediately. Untested, unproven generative AI tools are unsafe for children.
- If they can browse the internet, test out some search terms you would find inappropriate.
- Try out the “learning” tools. Remember, gaming is not learning.

4

Ask about your child's privacy.

Did you know that 96% of tech used in classrooms is selling student data? ([source](#))

Ask your school the questions to the right. If you're unsatisfied with the responses, consider demanding an opt out of those certain digital tools.

Parents should not have to choose between our children's right to an education and their right to privacy.

Our children have a fundamental right to privacy, even at school. Parents have a right to understand:

- What student data is collected
- Who receives it
- How long its stored
- Whether third parties have access

5

Start with your teacher.

If you have concerns, we recommend sticking to the chain of command. This means, contacting school staff members in this order, as you escalate:

1. Teacher
2. Principal
3. School District Office Staff
4. Superintendent
5. School Board Members
6. Speak at School Board Meetings

Following the chain of communication is more likely to lead to productive conversations. Keep your tone kind and collaborative, as much as possible.

6

Advocate with other parents.

One email can be dismissed. Five parents asking the questions drives attention. Find other families who share your concerns and work together.

7

Remember: You are your child's advocate.

You don't have to be an educator or technology expert to ask questions. Schools are there to serve their communities – meaning you and your children.

Schools should welcome thoughtful questions about learning, privacy, safety and healthy development.

For more parent templates, visit:
techsafelearning.org

For even more advice from experts, listen to Ask the Experts:
School Tech Edition (a podcast mini-series by [Scrolling 2 Death](#))

