



**State of Rhode Island**  
**Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos**

March 17, 2026

Representative Joseph McNamara  
Chair, House Committee on Education  
82 Smith St, Room 101  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for H7895: An Act Relating To Education -- Safe School Technology Act Of 2026

Dear Representative McNamara:

I write to you in support of H7895: An Act Relating To Education -- Safe School Technology Act Of 2026

This bill would establish the Safe School Technology Act of 2026, the purpose of which is to ensure that Rhode Island schools remain focused on effective, developmentally appropriate instruction grounded in evidence-based practices and respectful of student well-being and privacy.

The impacts of screentime on a child's development has been well-documented. A study published by the National Library of Medicine found that excessive screentime can "obstruct the ability to interpret emotions, fuel aggressive conduct, and harm one's psychological health in general." While screentime in the classroom can offer advantages, we need to develop standards to ensure that new and emerging technologies enhance the academic experience, not detract from it. Furthermore, as digital technology becomes increasingly common inside and outside the classroom, it is crucial that we have guardrails in place to protect the data and the privacy of the students who use these devices.

I remain committed to working with parents, teachers, administrators, and especially students to create a learning environment that stokes creativity, happiness, growth, and social collaboration. For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

CC: Rep. Justine Caldwell