



County Boards of Education – Student Technology Use Policy – Requirements

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

WAYS AND MEANS

UNFAVORABLE

The Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC) requests an unfavorable report on HB0525.

The Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC) is the representative organization of all students enrolled in the secondary schools of AACPS, dedicated to elevating youth voice and promoting student leadership.

By requiring each county's Board of Education to adopt a policy by the 2027-2028 school year that severely limits students' personal device use, and only allows certain exceptions and administrator approval. While this bill does include exceptions for students with 504 plans and other needs as well as prohibiting suspension as punishment for violations, HB0525 goes against CRASC's platform, which explicitly supports "A student's right to possess and use cellular devices during school hours at the teacher's discretion" (Plank VII, C) as well as "The use of social media and modern technology for educational purposes" (Plank VII, D). This mandate conflicts with CRASC's platform on device usage in the classroom, which outlines that device usage should be monitored and managed by the teacher and used in a context that is guided by the educator, rather than an overall restriction that removes flexibility for teachers and students.

Additionally, CRASC opposes "The restriction of social media sites and electronic devices during student recreational periods, including lunch"(Plank VII, B Opposes). HB0525 would mandate counties to create a policy prohibiting or severely restricting device use during these times. These recreational periods are ones where students often coordinate group projects, clubs, transportation, and other family obligations that may arise. Establishing these broad restrictions undermines the positive use that technology can hold in learning and developing leadership skills in students.

Accordingly, the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB0525 from the committee.



Thank you,

William Andrione, *Secretary of Legislation*

Alma Naghed, Vivi Chin, and Veda Puvvala, *Legislative Liaisons*