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Top 5 Questions to ask about Technology Use in Schools

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01 What percentage of a child's day is spent using technology? How is this tracked or monitored? Does this amount change based on child's age or grade?

As more and more schools begin to use technology, it's important to find out how much time your child spends on technology each day in a school setting.

Is the school using specific guidelines or parameters to make those decisions and how is this monitored? I was surprised to learn that some schools do not have set limits on amounts of technology use. Additionally, it's important to find out how schools monitor how much technology is used.

This gives both you and the school a chance to assess whether technology is being used judiciously as a tool or adjunct to the lesson or whether it's being used as a pacifier or in place of a lesson plan.

02

What policies are in place regarding technology use at recess and lunch or as a reward?

Some schools use technology as a reward for finishing work quickly or permit students to use phones, etc., at lunch and recess time. Some schools allow technology use during recess if there is inclement weather. Other schools have policies specifically against these practices.

It's important to learn how your potential school addresses this. Recess and lunch are the social times of day and if students are on screens, that social interaction is likely to be negatively impacted.

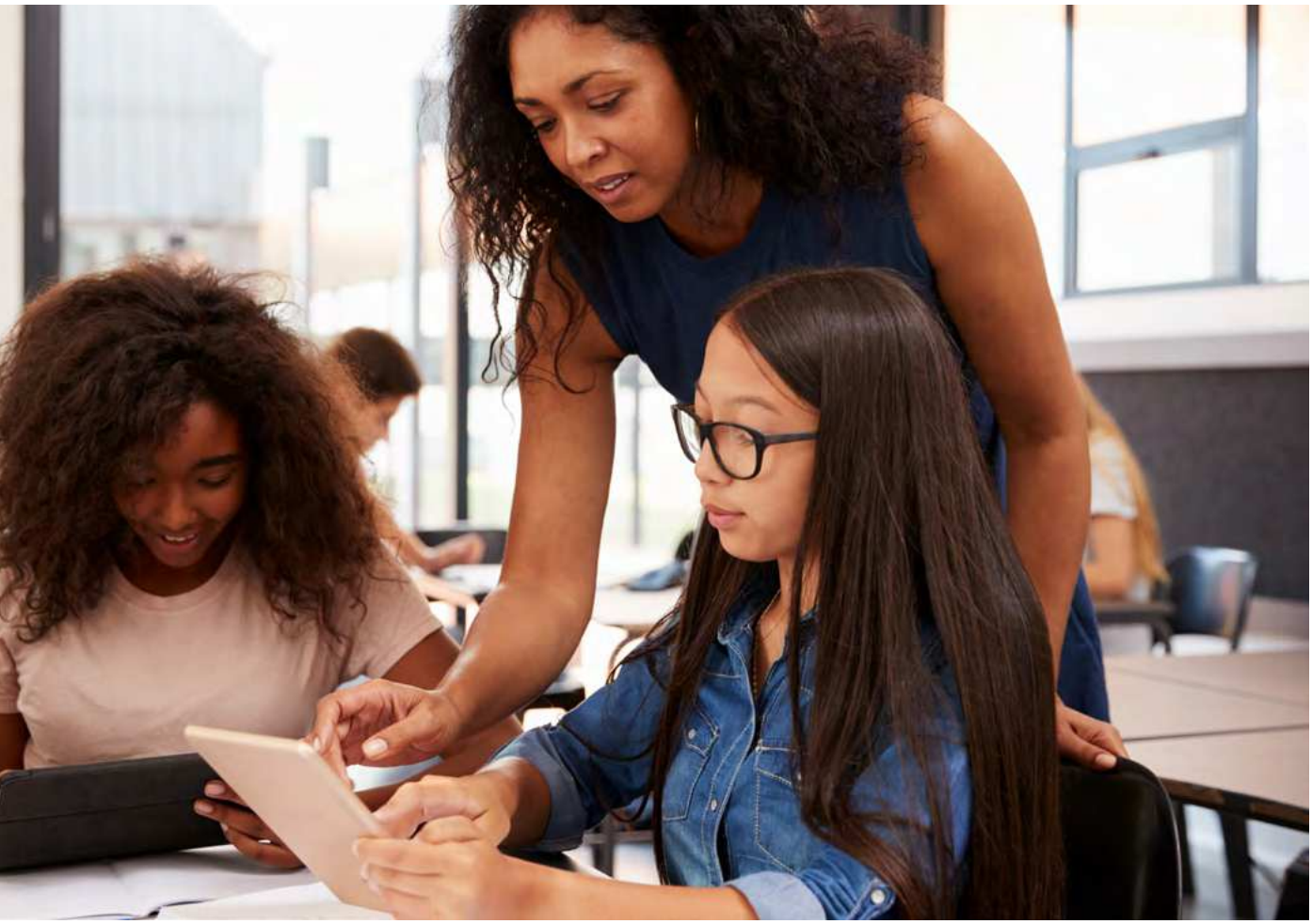
Similarly, if students are rewarded with screen time for finishing work quickly, this may inadvertently encourage them to work quickly and potentially carelessly in order to earn screen time.

03

What level of training is provided to teachers and students alike regarding technology use?

Some schools put their teachers through extensive training before allowing them to have technology in their classrooms. Others do not. In an ideal world, if technology is being used in a classroom, it is being used as a supportive tool and not as the principle mode of education.

How much training the teachers get in the technology they are using and how they are implementing it is an important aspect of these tools being used properly in the classroom setting.



04 What is the school policy regarding cell phone, iPad, or smart watches in school? Does this policy change with age/grade?

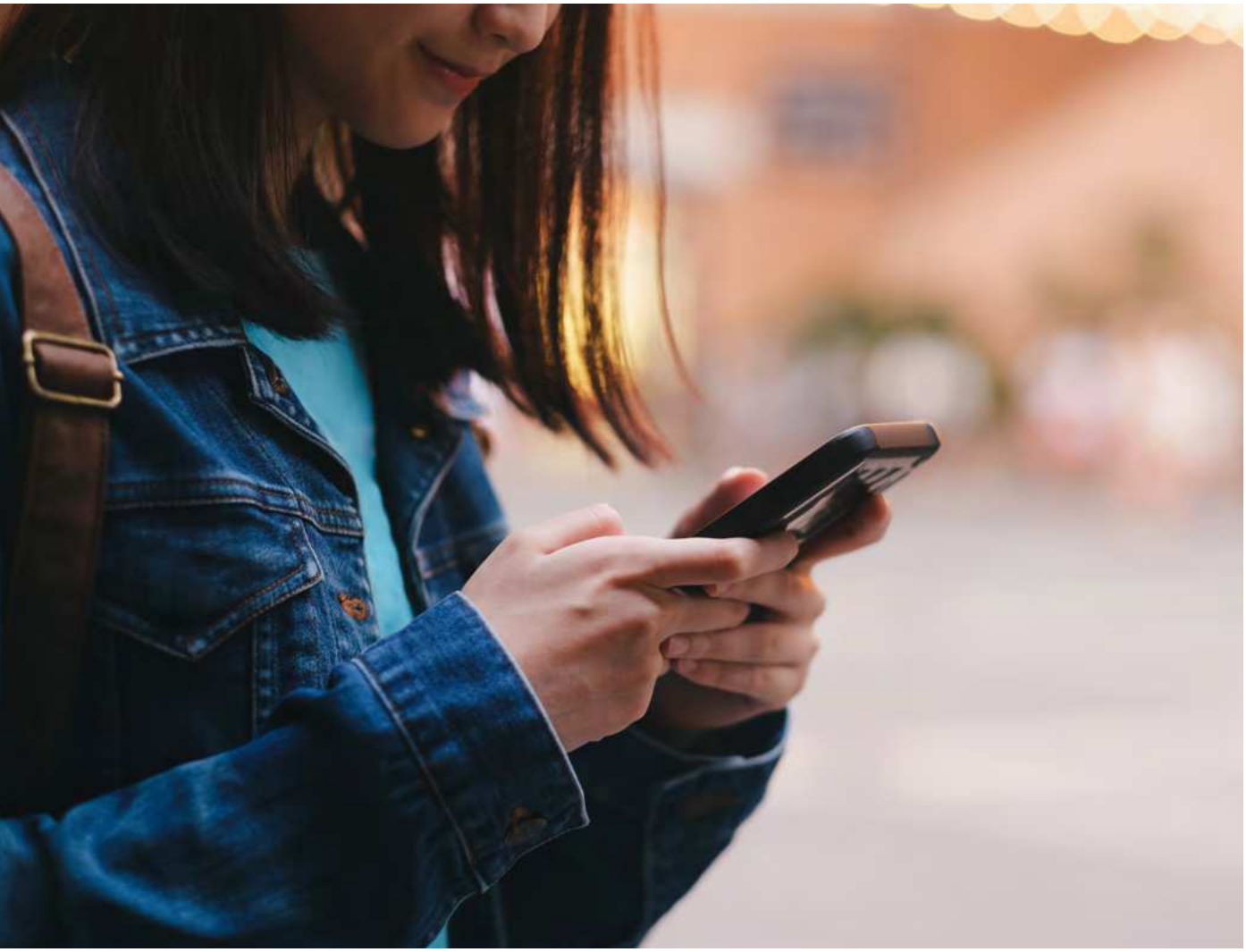
Phones and smart watches are distracting. It's important to learn how your potential school addresses this.

Are phones, smart watches, etc. allowed in the building, in the locker, on the student's person? Are they collected during class or allowed on the desk? What happens if a student or parent violates the school's policy?

05 If I have concerns about the use or manner of technology in my child's classroom, who can address those?

No school is perfect and challenges arise. It's important to know who can address these challenges. If a student learns how to access certain programs or apps through the school provided media, who do you contact to have that shut down?

What concerns should be taken to the teacher and which should be taken to administrators?



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