Media Statement

WA Council of State School Organisations Inc.

Every Child Thrives

20 October, 2026

WACSSO is encouraged by the State Government's focus on evidence-based use of screens in early learning.

The Western Australian Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO) is encouraged by the State Government's announcement of a pilot program to explore reduced screen use for students in Kindergarten to Year 2 and the establishment of a Digital Learning and Screen Use Advisory Group.

The Government has announced that from the beginning of 2027, ten public schools in Western Australia will participate in a six-month pilot aimed at limiting unnecessary screen use in early years classrooms while maintaining technology use where required for curriculum delivery.

WACSSO President Pania Turner said the announcement reflects the conversations public school parents are having at home about the use of technology in children's lives.

"Parents recognise that digital literacy is an important part of modern education, but they also value opportunities for hands-on learning, creativity, social interaction and play, particularly in the early years."

WACSSO's 2026 Parent Views on Screen Use in Public School Classrooms Survey found that Western Australian parents are seeking a more balanced approach to the use of technology in schools.

"The Government's announcement reflects what WACSSO has been hearing from parents of children who attend public schools across Western Australia. Families understand that digital skills are an important part of preparing children for the future, but they also want confidence that technology is being used in ways that support learning rather than replace the experiences that matter most. Our survey shows strong support for a balanced approach, particularly in the early years, where handwriting, reading, play, social connection and quality teacher interaction remain fundamental to a child's development."

WACSSO said the pilot presents an excellent opportunity to gather evidence and hear directly from parents, students, and school communities about what works best.

"As this pilot progresses, parents will be looking for clear evidence that any changes are supporting children's learning, wellbeing and development. Families want confidence that decisions made about classroom screen use will help their children thrive in the increasingly digital world they live in."