

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Astrid S. Rios and I am the mother of 4 year old girl and a 10 year old autistic boy. I am also a Hematology/Oncology registered nurse. It has recently come to my attention that I Pads may be coming into my children's classrooms as part of their educational materials and that Wi-Fi will have to be used for probably as long as six hours a day. With all due respect, I do disagree. I understand that technology is growing and changing very quickly in our world and that at some point everybody must be able to function appropriately with it. However, I ask, what can be the dangers along with this great responsibility. For one, children are bombarded with technology every day that is not necessarily to their benefit. They become completely engrossed with games, television, or computers. They forget the world around them. I believe that this is impacting the way children relate with others. I don't state this concern only because of my son and his actions but because I also see it frequently in other children. I have seen how it has impacted my son and others. If we provide them with I Pads in school what message are we sending?

The internet is a great danger to children. How will children be monitored on these I Pads? I believe that if a person sitting in a nearby coffee shop that provides wireless internet can get into to other people's information, how easily children deviate and reach inappropriate websites. In this manner children can be subject to other predators or be exposed to inappropriate sites. How can one teacher of 22 children, sometimes more, monitor all? We don't have enough teachers nor aides.

In the past recent months and even years schools have suffered many cuts. We have cut the number of teachers, aides, school nurses, programs, and materials. In our school there is a nurse only twice a week. Office staff has to play the role of a nurse the other three days as well as fulfill their job. Why not deal or fix the issues we already have? Instead of using money for I Pads and their expensive maintenance, let us provide more teachers or materials to our schools. Reinstating some of the many programs that were eliminated, so our children can become productive and creative individuals once they have graduated would be of greater use. The need is great.

Another concern that I have is the possibility that we as a society will start to see a growth in children with cancer as result of radiation exposure. I have seen the effects of cancer on people every day. I don't wish that kind of suffering on anybody. Therefore, I ask that the district take in consideration the many studies of Wi-Fi that have been made not only in this country but others of how it has affected children. I am concerned about the development of cancer but as well other physical repercussions. I don't believe that because the world is changing every month with a new technology, children need to be automatically exposed to it. Wireless has not been around for an extensive amount of time. We don't know what ten years from now will bring with wireless internet. Please consider these concerns.

Thank you,

Astrid S. Rios, RN