THE SETHI LEDGER
AI + K-12 Brief | 2026-11-06

1. Seattle expands screen limits and blocks student access to several digital tools

Published Nov. 5, 2026, KUOW reported that Seattle Public Schools announced expanded restrictions at a Nov. 4 board meeting. The district said it would block Gemini districtwide and YouTube for K-5 starting Nov. 9, and Minecraft for K-12 with curricular exceptions; starting in January, grades 3-5 will have a 60-minute daily screen limit and lose individual school-issued laptops.

Why it matters: The changes show how a district can pair tool-specific access controls with age-based device limits. Leaders should check implementation details and consider how restrictions affect curriculum, accessibility, and families' expectations.

Limits: The article reports announced actions and future implementation dates; it does not evaluate educational or safety outcomes.

Published 2026-11-05. Source: https://www.kuow.org/education/2026-11-05/seattle-public-schools-tightens-student-access-to-youtube-minecraft-and-ai

2. Study finds few states have K-12 digital accessibility policies ahead of ADA deadline

Published Nov. 5, 2026, Utah State's National Center on Accessible Digital Educational Materials & Instruction reported that its scan found 12 states with policies addressing digital accessibility of K-12 educational materials. The article says the ADA Title II web and mobile-app accessibility rule takes effect April 26, 2027, for entities serving populations of 50,000 or more, and April 26, 2028, for smaller entities.

Why it matters: Districts should assess whether their digital materials and procurement processes meet applicable accessibility requirements, rather than assuming state policy alone supplies implementation guidance. The deadlines make this a near-term compliance and planning issue.

Limits: The article summarizes a policy scan, not an audit of district compliance; applicability and timelines depend on the rule's requirements.

Published 2026-11-05. Source: https://www.usu.edu/today/story/policies-analyzed-by-usus-national-center-on-accessible-digital-educational-materials-amp-instruction

3. Pennsylvania district proposes AI guidance, staff training, and assessment changes

Published Nov. 5, 2026, New Hope Free Press reported that New Hope-Solebury presented a proposed three-year comprehensive plan to its school board on Oct. 22. The plan calls for continued AI policy development, staff training and parent education, review of assessment practices, and age-differentiated approaches; it is expected to return for board approval in December and would take effect in July 2027.

Why it matters: The proposal connects AI governance to instructional practice, assessment, and age-appropriate use rather than treating tool access as the whole policy question. District leaders can monitor whether the proposal becomes adopted policy and how the district defines accountability and implementation.

Limits: The plan is proposed, not approved or implemented; the article does not provide final policy language.

Published 2026-11-05. Source: https://www.newhopefreepress.com/2026/11/05/new-hope-solebury-schools-map-out-ai-strategy-in-new-plan/

4. Washoe County seeks networking equipment through 2027 E-Rate funding

Published Nov. 5, 2026, Education Week Market Brief reported that Washoe County School District in Nevada issued a solicitation for networking equipment for 11 school sites, using its 2027 E-Rate funding. The proposed contract is expected to begin in April 2027 and run through September 2028; the district requested fixed prices for the first six months, subject to documented adjustment requests.

Why it matters: The solicitation offers a concrete view of planned network investment and procurement terms, including price stability and delivery across multiple sites. District technology and finance teams should coordinate E-Rate planning with lifecycle, implementation, and price-risk considerations.

Limits: This is an active solicitation, not a completed purchase or confirmed award.

Published 2026-11-05. Source: https://marketbrief.edweek.org/purchasing-alerts/utah-district-to-purchase-k-6-core-math-curriculum-texas-system-needs-pd/2026/11