FOOTHILLS SCHOOL DIVISION

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN STUDENT LEARNING

2026-2027

WHO IS LISTENING?

FSD Board of Trustees
Board Chair, Theresa Letendre
Vice Chair, Lisa Penzo

Superintendent of Schools
Chris Fuzessy

WHO ARE WE LISTENING TO?

- FSD Staff
- Students & their families
- FSD Board of Trustees
- FSD System Leadership
- Greater community

HOW WE ARE LISTENING

- Discussion with your Trustee at a School Council meeting
- Targeted online surveys for staff and students and their families
- Council of School Council Meeting (November 2026)
- Focus groups with community partners and representatives from impacted groups (ATA, CUPE, School Leadership)

LISTENING TO INFORM DECISIONS

Over the last few years, Foothills School Division (FSD) has heard from families, staff, and students about the role of technology in learning.

To better understand the perspectives and ideas of the community we serve, we are opening a conversation on this topic. This engagement will gather input about the role and use of technology in classrooms, with particular attention to elementary school settings.

The goal is to clarify where technology adds instructional value, where it may be refined, and how the FSD can balance learning, well-being, access, career readiness, and support childhood development across the division.

Our conversation is not framed around "*technology or no technology*". It will be around this guiding question:

What is the role of technology in elementary student learning?

Whether you are a team member, parent, student, or community partner, your participation will give us insight to inform the planning of how technology may be used in student learning,

Watch your email inbox in November for your invitation to participate

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OUR CONSIDERATIONS

This engagement is grounded in a balanced and emerging knowledge base, including:

- *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt raises important concerns about the effect of screens, smartphones, and digital habits on children's mental health, attention, and social development.
- *Stolen Focus* by Johann Hari adds the idea that distraction is not simply an individual problem; modern systems are designed to fragment attention.
- *The Digital Delusion* by Jared Cooney Horvath argues that technology should not be used in schools simply because it is available or familiar; it should be used only when it clearly improves learning.
- *Think Again* by Adam Grant supports a consultation process built on curiosity, humility, and willingness to rethink assumptions.
- Hannah Beach's work, including *Reclaiming Our Students*, emphasizes play, belonging, emotional safety, and the importance of children being allowed to be children again.

THE CONNECTION TO OUR WORK

As part of our Fast Forward to a Flourishing CommUNITY Implementation plan, Foothills School Division is well-positioned to engage in this conversation and make informed decisions.

We are looking at not only how technology supports learning, but also how it supports access, connection, and opportunity across a large and diverse rural geography.

CONTEXT

Foothills School Division serves students from Junior Kindergarten (preschool) through to grade 12 in digital and formal learning spaces.

In the 2025-2026 school year, Foothills School Division served over 3,800 students in kindergarten to grade 6 in 20 of its schools.

TIMELINE

2026

September	Engagement Launch
October	Gather staff insight
November	Gather school community insight
	Gather community partner insight

2027

January	Analysis & Review
February	Publish final report
May	Publish Fast Forward & Education Plans

CONTACT US

communications@fsd38.ab.ca

(403) 652-3001