Lightspeed Insight Wins Tech & Learning Award, Back to School 2026: Turning Screen Time Guesswork to District Balance

Insight's Student Screen Time Dashboard turns district screen time guesswork into board-ready, district-level balance for K-12 leaders.



AUSTIN, TX, UNITED STATES, September 17, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Screen time has become one of K-12 education's most politically charged pressure points. But it's really just one piece of a bigger question: are districts using their technology the right way? Parents and legislators are demanding accountability. Media coverage amplifies fear. And most administrators respond with policy statements and estimates instead of data.

> Districts often answer screen time questions with policy statements, not data. We built this so leaders have real data for boards and parents. This recognition means a lot to our team."
>
> *Amy Bennett, Chief of Staff, Lightspeed Systems*

Lightspeed Insight™ closes that gap. It gives district leaders the data to take ownership of the screen time conversation instead of reacting to it. Leaders get a verified, centralized picture of actual device activity. They see how much screen time students are getting and how much of it is instructional. They also see which campuses and apps are driving usage, and how the district compares to similarly sized peers nationally. That's what lets a district move from defending a number to actually managing it.

Districts using Lightspeed Insight get:
 Active device time by grade level, including instructional vs. non-instructional breakdowns
 Campus-, app-, and student-level detail to spot outliers early and inform coaching and instructional strategy
 National and like-size district benchmarks, giving every number context

 A published methodology, so every number can hold up to scrutiny from a board or a parent

In 2025–26, that data helped districts see past assumption to a clearer national picture. K-12 students average just 48 minutes of in-school screen time per day. 71.8% of it happens inside learning and productivity tools. Daily YouTube time averages roughly four minutes per student. Numbers like these don't describe a device crisis. They describe measured, largely instructional use, and they're the foundation for a more balanced conversation among districts, parents, and policymakers.

District leaders who've put the data in front of their own communities are already seeing that shift play out.

"We were surprised that our screen time data was much different than what we were being told by parents. The grade-level information allows us the appropriate data to give to the school board — it lets us present actual data instead of guessing. We can have real conversations based on real data," said James Rothenberger, Director of Information Technology at Oley Valley School District.

"This screen time data gives us insight into how devices are used by students, and allows us to modify curriculum," said Erin Whittington, Infrastructure Applications Specialist at Hamilton Southeastern School District. "Sharing what students are doing instead of learning makes it identifiably better to drive more balanced use of technology."

"Screen time has been one of the most talked-about topics in K-12 for years, and most districts have been trying to answer it with a policy statement instead of a number," said Amy Bennett, Chief of Staff, Lightspeed Systems. "We built this solution to change that — to give district leaders real data they can bring into a board meeting or a parent conversation with confidence. This recognition from Tech & Learning means a lot to our team, and it reflects the trust so many districts have placed in us to get this right."

A Tech & Learning Award of Excellence
For that work, Lightspeed Insight has won a Tech & Learning Award of Excellence: Back to School 2026. The win falls in the Secondary Education category.

The Tech & Learning Awards of Excellence are now in another year of recognizing innovation across the education industry. They highlight products and solutions that make a meaningful difference to educators and learners. The Back to School awards specifically recognize products that demonstrate versatility, value, and innovation. Winners also address real-world challenges in today's education landscape. A panel of experienced education technology experts judges every entry. Winning represents recognition from one of the industry's leading education technology publications, Tech & Learning.

The Tech & Learning awards editorial team commented:

“The 2026 awards saw an impressive range of products and solutions designed to meet the evolving needs of today’s education sector. Our expert judges were particularly impressed by the quality, innovation and practical impact demonstrated by this year’s winners. Each winning product has shown its ability to support educators and learners in meaningful ways, and we’re delighted to recognize their achievements. Congratulations to all of this year’s well-deserved winners.”

We’re thrilled to receive a Tech & Learning Award of Excellence: Back to School 2026. To find out more about Lightspeed Insight, visit lightspeedsystems.com/products/lightspeed-digital-insight.

Tech & Learning will also feature our win across its editorial and promotional channels, including the website and newsletter. That gives this achievement further reach among the publication’s engaged education technology audience.

About Lightspeed Systems
With more than 27 years of serving education, Lightspeed Systems delivers the most in-depth visibility and control to power exceptional schools. Students stay safe and engaged; technology stays compliant and easy to manage; and resources stay secure and optimized. Purpose-built for school networks and devices, Lightspeed’s cloud-managed solutions include the most effective web filtering, student safety monitoring, classroom management, and device management. Data analytics software rounds out the platform. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, with a European office in London, UK, Lightspeed serves over 25 million students across 35,000 schools in 45 countries.

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