Addendum 3 to "Screens and AI in K-6 Classrooms: Research Brief for ARPS Parents" November 6, 2026. New material since Addendum 2, for integration into the working document. Each item names the brief section it belongs in.

A8. Google reverses the default: AI and Search off for K-12 student accounts in 2027 (for Section 6a and the Information Systems questions; supersedes A3 when it takes effect)

On November 3, 2026 Google announced that Gemini, Gemini Notebook, Gemini in Classroom and Google Search will be off for K-12 student accounts until a school administrator explicitly turns them on, with the change expected in early 2027 and specifics to follow "in the coming months." Schools can turn on the services individually. The Search that schools can turn on includes AI Overviews and AI Mode, and Google will not offer a links-only version; Google's Chris Phillips told the New York Times that students in a school that keeps AI off will not have access to Search and "will see a message from their school" (NYT, Nov 3, 2026, paywalled; PPC Land; CNN; Android Authority). Google also made Guided Learning available in Google Classroom worldwide on November 3 and is piloting it in Search for student accounts in selected US schools.

What this changes for the brief. A3's statement that AI Overviews and AI Mode cannot be disabled remains true until the change ships; after it ships the accurate statement is that AI cannot be separated from Search. The August 2026 default-on for Gemini stays in the record as history. From early 2027 every AI tool on an Amherst elementary account will be there because a district administrator turned it on, which is the affirmative act the liability memorandum describes. The question for the policy becomes who makes that decision and under what authority; the working group's position is that it belongs with the School Committee, service by service, with the parental consent form attached. For grades 3 to 6 the district will face Google's framing of accept AI or lose Search; a district that wants links without AI can set a different default search engine in Chrome for the student organizational units, which the brief has not yet evaluated.

A9. First lawsuit over Gemini on a school Chromebook (for Section 6b and the liability memorandum)

On or about November 4, 2026 a North Carolina family sued Google in California state court over their 13-year-old daughter, identified as Emma, whose only access to Gemini was through her school-issued Chromebook. The complaint says she began using Gemini and Search's AI Mode and AI Overviews for schoolwork in fall 2025, exchanged thousands of messages with Gemini about anxiety, depression and suicide methods, often framing the questions as school research or telling the AI to skip hotline referrals, and began self-harming; a school monitoring

tool flagged the exchanges and the parents were notified in March 2026. The complaint cites a KORA evaluation finding that Gemini 3 Flash responded appropriately to mental-health messages 7 percent of the time. Counsel are Julie and Andrew Liddell; the complaint is hosted at edtech.law, the EdTech Law Center, which also brought the pending Chromebook privacy case against Google. Google said it is "reviewing the claims in the lawsuit" and takes them seriously, and that it filters explicit content for Workspace for Education students and shows hotline information in crisis cases (NYT, Nov 5, 2026, paywalled; Bloomberg via Claims Journal; Gizmodo).

What this means for the brief. This is the first filed case in which the harm alleged ran through a school account and a school device rather than a personal one, and the defendant is Google, not the district. It belongs next to the Common Sense risk assessment in 6b (29 percent of explicit suicide references missed) and the senators' October 21 letter, as the point where the documented risk became a claim. For the memorandum it is a factual pleading that a district-enabled service was the channel; the complaint does not, from the coverage, name the district or allege anything about how the account was configured, and the coverage does not say whether Gemini was on by default through the school account. The complaint itself should be read before any of its allegations are repeated in front of the committee.

A10. School Committee action and the TAPS subcommittee (for Section 1, Background)

On November 3, 2026 the Amherst School Committee voted unanimously to establish Technology in Amherst Public Schools (TAPS), a policy subcommittee charged with advising the committee on a new district technology policy addressing student screen use, digital learning tools and AI, with up to 15 members from school staff, district IT and instructional leadership, caregivers and families, students as appropriate, and up to two School Committee members. Deliverables are a guiding principles document and a policy recommendation, updated annually (TAPS charge). The Regional School Committee has not yet taken up the charge. Section 1's statement that the parent group is not asking the committee to take up a new issue should be replaced with this.

Flags

Both NYT articles are paywalled and were not read directly; the November 3 item rests on PPC Land, CNN and Android Authority, and the November 5 item on Bloomberg and Gizmodo. The Google blog post announcing the default-off change, "Designing responsible AI for learning," was not located; PPC Land notes that Google's X post and blog differ on whether Gemini in Classroom is included. The lawsuit's filing date is inferred from the complaint's docket filename (2026.11.04) and is not stated in the coverage. The KORA 7 percent figure is the plaintiffs'

citation and has not been checked.

Prepared November 6, 2026 for the Amherst parent and caregiver working group. Companion to the research brief, Addenda 1 and 2, and the liability memorandum.