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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format..... LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....
—Article Number:.....43693



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Spell check is an essential accommodation for dyslexic
2 kids. Google broke it.

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 As a reading interventionist at a Vermont public middle
6 school, I witness daily how technology shapes our students'
7 futures. We use our Google Chromebooks for statewide testing,
8 diagnostic testing, even for daily instruction.

9 As a Vermont teacher I am expected to have all my work
10 available through Google Classroom, to regularly check my
11 Gmail, to use only Google tools in my job. Generally this helps

12 Vermont schools move toward a more universal design, where
13 students gain better access to school work regardless of their
14 reading level.

15 Unfortunately, the Google spell check feature no longer
16 works reliably on student Chromebooks. Rather than helping
17 students fix their spelling, Google AI is constantly offering to
18 rewrite the sentence or find links to related information. Google
19 places so much emphasis on developing all the flashy AI features
20 that they no longer care about perfecting simple, essential tools
21 like spell check.

22 Google is aware of this issue but has decided today's
23 students don't need reliable spell check.

24 For me, this issue is deeply personal. As a dyslexic
25 person, spell check has been the crucial tool that allowed me to
26 participate in the information economy. In my role as a reading
27 teacher, I find it crucial to teach students how to integrate spell
28 check into their writing process as an essential accommodation.
29 By failing to fix this basic feature, we are depriving an entire
30 generation of their potential for independence.

31 Vermont schools spend roughly \$15 million a year on
32 Google Chromebooks and their software licenses. Because of
33 these massive investments, Vermont teachers and students are
34 trapped in the Google environment with no viable alternatives.

35 Vermont must take a stand.

36 Our state should stop sending any money to Google until
37 the company fixes the issues with spell check in the Chrome
38 environment. I appreciate Vermont's wish to embrace universal
39 design, and so I appreciate the effort to get all Vermont students
40 onto computers.

41 However, it seems like an incredible waste of time and
42 money if we can't even expect basic tools that actually work.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

43

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

44

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LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

45

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

46

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

47

####END LOGLINE####