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SOCIAL MEDIA COST RECOVERY

MDL No. 3047 · Litigation Update & Cost Recovery

TO: School District Leaders & Administrators
FROM: Jeff Smelcer & A.J. Granger, Northwest Worksite Solutions (NWS)
RE: Social Media MDL No. 3047 Litigation Cost Recovery
DATE: November 2026 Update · **Content as of November 20, 2026**

School districts across the nation continue to join federal multidistrict litigation (MDL No. 3047, before Chief Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California) to seek financial recovery for amounts spent on mental-health staff, phone-management controls, and administrative interventions tied to student social media use (court's MDL 3047 page).

As of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation's November 2, 2026 report, 4,309 actions are pending in MDL No. 3047 (4,495 filed in total). School districts continue to join, and the docket remains open to additional school-district filings. The next federal court date is the December 14, 2026 case management conference.

LANDMARK DEVELOPMENTS & BELLWETHER SETTLEMENTS

School District Bellwether	State	Status / Timeline	Settlement / Case Details
Breathitt County SD	KY	**SETTLED**	First school bellwether; settled May 2026 with all four companies before trial; case closed (CMO No. 35); reported total about $27M (Bloomberg Law)
Tucson Unified SD	AZ	**FEB 3, 2027**	Jury selection Feb. 3; evidence begins Feb. 8, 2027 (CMO No. 35)
Charleston County SD	SC	**AFTER TUCSON**	Next school-district bellwether, scheduled to follow Tucson (CMO No. 35)
Harford County	MD	**EARLY POOL**	Selected among the court's first six school-district bellwethers (CMO No. 24)
DeKalb County SD	GA	**EARLY POOL**	Selected among the court's first six school-district bellwethers (CMO No. 24)
Irvington Public Schools	NJ	**EARLY POOL**	Selected among the court's first six school-district bellwethers (CMO No. 24)

Parallel jury-trial verdict ($6 million): In California state litigation (*K.G.M. v. Meta et al.*), a March 25, 2026 jury awarded $6 million after finding Meta and Google negligent in designing applications for youth. That verdict is on appeal (Meta Form 10-Q, period ended June 30, 2026). A later California trial in the same coordination ended November 2, 2026, when the last remaining company settled (California Courts Newsroom).

WHY SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS ARE ALLEGED TO BE LIABLE

School districts sue social media companies under public-nuisance and product-liability / negligence theories. Complaints allege that platforms designed their apps to maximize compulsive youth engagement through:

- **Compulsive infinite feeds —** algorithmic designs featuring endless scrolling, variable rewards, and intrusive notifications.
- **Defective safety guardrails —** ineffective age verification, weak parental controls, and barriers to account deletion.
- **Harmful content amplification —** algorithms surfacing eating disorders, self-harm, and viral school-vandalism challenges.

Section 230. Federal courts in MDL 3047 have ruled that Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act does not automatically protect platforms from claims alleging defective product-design choices (Nov. 14, 2023 order). Immunity and liability issues remain contested and case-specific.

LEARN MORE

News NBC News: Kentucky school district settlement · Education Week: Will schools benefit from the Meta settlement?

Video ABC News: School districts across the U.S. sue social media companies · LiveNOW from FOX: Kentucky school-district settlement explained

IS YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT ELIGIBLE?

If your district has spent unexpected resources managing student mental-health needs, discipline, repairs or phone management tied to social media, Northwest Worksite Solutions can help evaluate a cost-recovery claim and obtain the correct professionals to compile everything needed for the action. Representation can be structured on contingency — no upfront municipal legal spend.

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