

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 3958
Version:	SAHB
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Conley
Date:	5/6/2024
Impact:	No Impact

Research Analysis

The Senate amendments to HB 3958 clarify that school staff are not required to include parents on academic communications with students through school-approved platforms. The amendments also remove the written warning step of the violation investigation process and require staff members with confirmed violations of this act to be disciplined according to the district's policy, rather than immediately terminated.

HB 3958, as amended, requires schools to include parents or guardians in any digital communication between a staff member and a student. Exceptions may be made in cases of emergencies. Schools must also provide State Department of Education-developed training for staff regarding such communication requirements.

If a staff member is reported to violate this requirement, they will be put on administrative leave during an investigation. If no misconduct is found, the staff member will be reinstated with the incident noted on their record. If misconduct is confirmed, the district will discipline the staff member according to their policy, and the incident must be reported to law enforcement.

Prepared By: Autumn Mathews

Fiscal Analysis

As written, the measure is not anticipated to result in a negative fiscal impact on the state budget or appropriations.

Prepared By: Cole Stout, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.