

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

HOUSE BILL 1983

By: Ranson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; requiring media literacy and cybersecurity to be taught; outlining instruction requirements; requiring students in certain grades to take the media literacy and cybersecurity course; prescribing the length of the course; allowing exception for certain transfer students; mandating that the State Department of Education adopt curriculum standards; directing the Department to develop guidelines, material, and resources; requiring the Department to report the standards created; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.17 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Media literacy and cybersecurity education shall be taught in the public schools of this state. Media literacy and cybersecurity education shall include, but is not limited to, the following areas of instruction:

1. Identifying and avoiding online scams such as: phishing, catfishing, malware, ransomware, scareware, and clickbait;

- 1 2. Identifying fraudulent emails, websites, and social media
- 2 profiles;
- 3 3. Using passwords and online security;
- 4 4. Protecting personal information;
- 5 5. Identifying fake news, including how to find sources to
- 6 verify information; and
- 7 6. Identifying deepfake images, videos, and audio and
- 8 identifying artificial intelligence (AI).

9 B. Beginning with students entering the sixth grade in the
10 2027-2028 school year, students shall fulfill the requirement by
11 satisfactorily completing a media literacy and cybersecurity course
12 containing the areas of instruction as provided in subsection A of
13 this section during the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade.

14 C. Media literacy and cybersecurity instruction shall be
15 provided in a one-half (1/2) unit course.

16 D. For students who transfer into an Oklahoma school district
17 from out of state during or after the eighth grade, school districts
18 may make an exception to the requirements for a media literacy and
19 cybersecurity course pursuant to the provisions of Section 11-103.6
20 of this title. School districts shall still encourage completion of
21 instruction in media literacy and cybersecurity.

22 E. The State Board of Education shall identify and adopt
23 curriculum standards for media literacy and cybersecurity
24 instruction that reflect the areas of instruction listed in

1 subsection A of this section. The standards shall be incorporated
2 into the state academic content standards adopted by the Board
3 pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

4 F. The State Department of Education shall:

5 1. Develop guidelines and material designed to enable schools
6 to offer media literacy and cybersecurity as a separate course. The
7 guidelines shall outline the areas of instruction to be taught based
8 on the curriculum standards adopted by the Board;

9 2. Develop professional development programs that are designed
10 to help teachers provide instruction in media literacy and
11 cybersecurity. Development programs shall be designed to help
12 teachers provide instruction through a separate media literacy and
13 cybersecurity course;

14 3. Provide resources to assist schools in developing a separate
15 media literacy and cybersecurity course; and

16 4. Provide and identify resources designed to enable students
17 identified as English language learners and students with specific
18 learning disabilities or individual educational needs to understand
19 and use the media literacy and cybersecurity information presented.

20 G. Within thirty (30) days of completing the media literacy and
21 cybersecurity curriculum standards, the State Board of Education
22 shall submit to the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
23 and the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate a report
24 outlining the standards.

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SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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