

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR ENGROSSED

5 SENATE BILL NO. 799

By: Pederson, Bergstrom, and
Hicks of the Senate

6 and

7 Pae of the House

8
9
10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to students; amending Section 1,
12 Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section
13 6-401), which relates to electronic or digital
14 communications between students and school personnel;
15 defining alternate adult; requiring written
16 verification; requiring notice of certain changes in
17 student circumstances; defining student; providing
18 for inclusion of alternate adult in certain
19 communications; updating statutory reference;
20 providing an effective date; and declaring an
21 emergency.

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

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L.
24 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6-401), is amended to read as
follows:

Section 6-401. A. As used in this section:

1 1. "Alternate adult" means a case manager or designated
2 employee of a homeless shelter, transitional living program, or a
3 continuum of care lead agency assigned to a student who has been
4 verified by the alternate adult as provided in subparagraph a of
5 this paragraph to be a homeless child or youth as defined in Section
6 600 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes without objection from the
7 student's parent or legal guardian.

8 a. Before the school shall include an alternate adult in
9 any electronic or digital communications, the
10 alternate adult shall:

11 (1) send a letter by return receipt mail to the last-
12 known address of the parent or legal guardian of
13 the student informing the parent or legal
14 guardian that the student may be designated as a
15 homeless child or youth and that an alternate
16 adult may be assigned to the student in school-
17 related communications if no response or
18 objection is received,

19 (2) allow a period of no less than fifteen (15)
20 business days for the parent or legal guardian to
21 respond or object to such designation, and

22 (3) file written verification with the school that no
23 objection was received, reasonable efforts to
24 locate or contact the parent or legal guardian

1 have been unsuccessful, and that the student
2 shall be designated as a homeless child or youth
3 and the alternate adult shall be included in
4 student-related communications.

5 b. The alternate adult shall promptly notify the school
6 if the alternate adult is no longer assigned to the
7 student, the student no longer meets the definition of
8 a homeless child or youth, a parent or legal guardian
9 objects to the student's designation, or any other
10 significant change in the student's circumstances as a
11 homeless child or youth.

12 2. "Electronic or digital communication" includes, but is not
13 limited to, emails, text messages, instant messages, direct
14 messages, social media messages, messages sent through software
15 applications, and any other electronic or digital means of
16 communication; ~~and~~

17 ~~2.~~ 3. "School personnel" means teachers, coaches,
18 administrators, school bus drivers, or any other persons employed
19 full-time or part-time by a public school or charter school; and

20 4. "Student" means a person enrolled in a public school or
21 charter school in this state receiving primary or secondary
22 education to obtain a standard high school diploma or high school
23 equivalency diploma. Student does not mean a person who holds a
24 standard high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma.

1 B. School personnel engaging in electronic or digital
2 communication with an individual student shall include the student's
3 parent ~~or~~, legal guardian, or alternate adult in any electronic or
4 digital communication, unless such communication is on a school-
5 approved platform and related to school and academic communications.

6 C. Exceptions to the requirement in subsection B of this
7 section may be made in case of an emergency, subject to subsequent
8 notification to the parent ~~or~~, legal guardian, or alternate adult.

9 D. School personnel shall make reasonable efforts to use
10 school-approved platforms, systems, or applications that allow
11 automatic inclusion of parents ~~or~~, legal guardians, or alternate
12 adults in communications with students.

13 ~~D.~~ E. Schools shall provide training, developed by the State
14 Department of Education, for school personnel on the student
15 communication requirements of this section.

16 ~~E.~~ F. Any school personnel who is reported to be in violation
17 of subsection B of this section shall be put on administrative leave
18 while the school district investigates the incident and notifies the
19 board of education. If the investigation finds that no misconduct
20 occurred, the school personnel shall be reinstated and the incident
21 shall be noted in the school personnel's employee file. If the
22 investigation finds misconduct occurred, the school personnel shall
23 be disciplined according to the school district board of education's
24 policy, up to and including termination of employment, and the

1 incident shall be reported to law enforcement pursuant to Section
2 1210.163 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

4 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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