

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 799

By: Pederson, Bergstrom, and
Hicks of the Senate

3 and

4 Pae of the House

5
6 An Act relating to students; amending Section 1,
7 Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section
8 6-401), which relates to electronic or digital
9 communications between students and school personnel;
10 providing for inclusion of alternate adult in
11 communications with certain students; providing
12 exception; updating statutory reference; providing an
13 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L.
16 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6-401), is amended to read as
17 follows:

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

19 1. "Electronic or digital communication" includes, but is not
20 limited to, emails, text messages, instant messages, direct
21 messages, social media messages, messages sent through software
22 applications, and any other electronic digital means of
23 communication; and

24 2. "School personnel" means teachers, coaches, administrators,
school bus drivers, or any other persons employed full-time or part-
time by a public school or charter school.

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

7 2. Students who are known to be homeless children and youth as
8 defined in Section 600 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall,
9 in lieu of a parent or guardian, have an alternate adult included in
10 the electronic or digital communication. The alternate adult shall
11 be:

12 a. the McKinney-Vento homeless liaison of a public
13 school, or

14 b. a case manager or designated employee of a homeless
15 shelter, transitional living program, or a continuum
16 of care lead agency.

17 C. Exceptions to the requirement in subsection B of this
18 section may be made in case of an emergency, subject to subsequent
19 notification to the parent ~~or~~, guardian, or alternate adult provided
20 for in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section. The provisions
21 of subsection B of this section shall not apply to the alternate
22 adult provided for in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section.

23 D. School personnel shall make reasonable efforts to use
24 school-approved platforms, systems, or applications that allow

1 automatic inclusion of parents ~~or~~, guardians, or alternate adults
2 provided for in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section in
3 communications with students.

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

7 ~~E.~~ F. Any school personnel who is reported to be in violation
8 of subsection B of this section shall be put on administrative leave
9 while the school district investigates the incident and notifies the
10 board of education. If the investigation finds that no misconduct
11 occurred, the school personnel shall be reinstated and the incident
12 shall be noted in the school personnel's employee file. If the
13 investigation finds misconduct occurred, the school personnel shall
14 be disciplined according to the school district board of education's
15 policy, up to and including termination of employment, and the
16 incident shall be reported to law enforcement pursuant to Section
17 1210.163 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

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

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

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