

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 3277

By: Baker

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to schools; creating the Student Digital Safety and Awareness Act; directing boards of education to adopt and implement digital safety policies subject to availability of funds; providing for selection of certain vendor to provide digital monitoring platform; listing components to address in digital safety policy; requiring data privacy and protection measures and transparency in data collection; mandating schools to report annually on the digital safety policy effectiveness; requiring publication of report on certain website; directing the State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to issue a request for proposal if funds are available; mandating Department oversee vendor and ensure public school compliance; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 24-100.9 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Student Digital Safety and Awareness Act".

1 B. Subject to the availability of funds, public school boards
2 of education shall adopt and implement digital safety policies to
3 enhance digital safety measures at school and utilize the vendor
4 selected pursuant to subsection E of this section to provide a
5 digital monitoring platform to ensure compliance. The policies
6 shall address the following key components:

7 1. Filtering and monitoring, which shall include implementation
8 of real-time filtering and monitoring of internet content accessed
9 by students to block harmful and inappropriate material, as well as
10 to identify potential safety threats;

11 2. Cyberbullying detection, which shall utilize digital safety
12 solutions to detect and prevent cyberbullying incidents by
13 monitoring digital communications and online interactions for signs
14 of bullying or harassment;

15 3. Self-harm and suicide prevention, which shall deploy
16 monitoring features that identify online content related to self-
17 harm or suicide, and enable timely intervention and support for at-
18 risk students;

19 4. Threat alerts, which shall identify potentially dangerous
20 activities or discussions online, and help to prevent school
21 violence and harm to students; and

22 5. Monitoring student online behavior, which shall employ
23 digital safety solutions to monitor and report online behavior of
24 students while safeguarding their privacy. The monitoring shall

1 focus on identifying potential risks, cyberbullying, self-harm
2 content, and dangerous activities. The monitoring shall be
3 conducted in English and Spanish.

4 C. The digital safety policies adopted and implemented pursuant
5 to subsection B of this section shall:

6 1. Ensure there is strict data privacy and protection measures
7 in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Personally
8 identifiable information of students shall be safeguarded;

9 2. Incorporate transparent processes for collecting and using
10 data with informed consent from parents or guardians of students.
11 The school shall clearly communicate how data is collected and
12 utilized for digital safety purposes; and

13 3. Provide parents with the option to manage their student's
14 online activity while using school-issued devices at home.

15 D. Public school districts shall annually report to the
16 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services on the
17 effectiveness of digital safety solutions in enhancing digital
18 safety, including data on incidents prevented, interventions made,
19 and the impact on student well-being. Each school district's annual
20 report shall be published on the Department's website for public
21 access.

22 E. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall
23 issue a request for proposal to select a vendor which will develop
24 and implement the digital platform to be used by all public schools

1 to adhere to the requirements of the Student Digital Safety and
2 Awareness Act. The Department shall oversee the selected vendor to
3 ensure it is capable of meeting the requirements of the Student
4 Digital Safety and Awareness Act, the request for proposal
5 application, and any Department policies established to implement
6 the Act, including all data components, digital safety, and privacy
7 standards. The Department shall ensure all public schools comply
8 with the Student Digital Safety and Awareness Act, including
9 reviewing the schools' adopted policies and procedures and ensuring
10 adherence to digital safety and privacy standards and utilization of
11 the selected vendor.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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

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