

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3277

By: Baker

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; creating the Student Digital Safety and Awareness Act; directing boards of education to adopt and implement digital safety policies; 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; directing the State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to oversee and ensure compliance with act; providing for penalties for noncompliant schools; directing Legislature to appropriate funds to implement act; 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. Public school boards of education shall adopt and implement
2 digital safety policies to enhance digital safety measures at
3 school. The policies shall address the following key components:

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

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

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

16 4. Threat alerts, which shall identify potentially dangerous
17 activities or discussions online, and help to prevent school
18 violence and harm to students; and

19 5. Monitoring student online behavior, which shall employ
20 digital safety solutions to monitor and report online behavior of
21 students while safeguarding their privacy. The monitoring shall
22 focus on identifying potential risks, cyberbullying, self-harm
23 content, and dangerous activities. The monitoring shall be conducted
24 in English and Spanish.

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

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

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

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

12 D. Public schools shall annually report to the Department of
13 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services on the effectiveness of
14 digital safety solutions in enhancing digital safety, including data
15 on incidents prevented, interventions made, and the impact on
16 student well-being.

17 E. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
18 shall oversee and ensure compliance with the Student Digital Safety
19 and Awareness Act, including adherence to digital safety and privacy
20 standards. Non-compliant schools may face penalties and the loss of
21 state funding.

22 F. The Legislature shall appropriate funds to support schools
23 and the Department in implementing the Student Digital Safety and
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1 Awareness Act, ensuring that adequate funding is available for the
2 adoption and effective use of digital safety policies.

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

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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