

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1937

By: Kannady

6  
7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to schools; amending Section 1,  
9 Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section  
10 6-401), which relates to student communication;  
11 defining student; permitting school districts to  
12 determine whether to place school personnel on  
13 administrative leave during an investigation;  
14 removing requirement that an incident be noted in a  
15 school personnel's employee file; requiring an  
16 employee that was put on administrative leave during  
17 an investigation and the investigation finding no  
18 misconduct be reinstated and that the finding of no  
19 misconduct be noted in the school personnel's  
20 employee file; providing an effective date; and  
21 declaring an 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. 2025, Section 6-401), is amended to read as  
follows:

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

1. "Electronic or digital communication" includes, but is not  
limited to, emails, text messages, instant messages, direct

1 messages, social media messages, messages sent through software  
2 applications, and any other electronic or digital means of  
3 communication; ~~and~~

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

7 3. "Student" means a person enrolled in a public school or  
8 charter school in this state receiving primary or secondary  
9 education to obtain a standard high school diploma or high school  
10 equivalency diploma. Student does not mean a person who holds a  
11 standard high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma.

12 B. School personnel engaging in electronic or digital  
13 communication with an individual student shall include the student's  
14 parent or legal guardian in any electronic or digital communication,  
15 unless such communication is on a school-approved platform and  
16 related to school and academic communications.

17 C. Exceptions to the requirement in subsection B of this  
18 section may be made in case of an emergency as determined by the  
19 local school board, subject to subsequent notification to the parent  
20 or legal guardian. School personnel shall make reasonable efforts  
21 to use school-approved platforms, systems, or applications that  
22 allow automatic inclusion of parents or legal guardians in  
23 communications with students.

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1 D. Schools shall provide training, developed by the State  
2 Department of Education, for school personnel on the student  
3 communication requirements of this section.

4 E. Any school personnel who is ~~reported to be~~ the subject of a  
5 corroborated report of being in violation of subsection B of this  
6 section shall be put on administrative leave while the school  
7 district investigates the incident and notifies the board of  
8 education. If the investigation finds that no misconduct occurred,  
9 ~~the school personnel shall be reinstated and the incident shall not~~  
10 ~~be noted in the school personnel's employee file.~~ If the school  
11 personnel was placed on administrative leave during the  
12 investigation of the incident but the investigation finds that no  
13 misconduct occurred, the school personnel shall be reinstated and  
14 the school personnel's employee file shall be noted of the finding  
15 of no misconduct. If the investigation finds misconduct occurred,  
16 the school personnel shall be disciplined according to the school  
17 district board of education's policy, up to and including  
18 termination of employment, and the incident shall be reported to law  
19 enforcement pursuant to Section 1210.163 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~  
20 ~~Statutes~~ this title.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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

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