

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 799

By: Pederson, Bergstrom, and
Hicks of the Senate

and

Pae, Moore, and Pogemiller
of the House

An Act relating to students; amending Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6-401), which relates to electronic or digital communications between students and school personnel; defining alternate adult; requiring written verification; requiring notice of certain changes in student circumstances; defining student; providing for inclusion of alternate adult in certain communications; and updating statutory reference.

SUBJECT: Communications with students

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L. 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. "Alternate adult" means a case manager or designated employee of a homeless shelter, transitional living program, or a continuum of care lead agency assigned to a student who has been verified by the alternate adult as provided in subparagraph a of this paragraph to be a homeless child or youth as defined in Section 600 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes without objection from the student's parent or legal guardian.

- a. Before the school shall include an alternate adult in any electronic or digital communications, the alternate adult shall:
- (1) send a letter by return receipt mail to the last-known address of the parent or legal guardian of the student informing the parent or legal guardian that the student may be designated as a homeless child or youth and that an alternate adult may be assigned to the student in school-related communications if no response or objection is received,
 - (2) allow a period of no less than fifteen (15) business days for the parent or legal guardian to respond or object to such designation, and
 - (3) file written verification with the school that no objection was received, reasonable efforts to locate or contact the parent or legal guardian have been unsuccessful, and that the student shall be designated as a homeless child or youth and the alternate adult shall be included in student-related communications.
- b. The alternate adult shall promptly notify the school if the alternate adult is no longer assigned to the student, the student no longer meets the definition of a homeless child or youth, a parent or legal guardian objects to the student's designation, or any other significant change in the student's circumstances as a homeless child or youth;

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

~~2.~~ 3. "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; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passed the Senate the 15th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 1st day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____