

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1937

By: Kannady and Lowe of the
House

and

Green of the Senate

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11 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L.
2 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-401), is amended to read as
3 follows:

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

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

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

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

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

23 C. Exceptions to the requirement in subsection B of this
24 section may be made in case of an emergency as determined by the

1 local school board, subject to subsequent notification to the parent
2 or legal guardian. School personnel shall make reasonable efforts
3 to use school-approved platforms, systems, or applications that
4 allow automatic inclusion of parents or legal guardians in
5 communications with students.

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

9 E. Any school personnel who is ~~reported to be~~ the subject of a
10 corroborated report of being in violation of subsection B of this
11 section shall be put on administrative leave while the school
12 district investigates the incident and notifies the board of
13 education. If the investigation finds that no misconduct occurred,
14 ~~the school personnel shall be reinstated and the incident shall not~~
15 be noted in the school personnel's employee file. If the school
16 personnel was placed on administrative leave during the
17 investigation of the incident but the investigation finds that no
18 misconduct occurred, the school personnel shall be reinstated and
19 the school personnel's employee file shall be noted of the finding
20 of no misconduct. If the investigation finds misconduct occurred,
21 the school personnel shall be disciplined according to the school
22 district board of education's policy, up to and including
23 termination of employment, and the incident shall be reported to law
24

1 enforcement pursuant to Section 1210.163 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~
2 ~~Statutes~~ this title.

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

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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9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OVERSIGHT, dated
10 03/04/2026 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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